

Addressing Our Country's Need for Biofuels:

“Looking at chemical engineers establishing a bio-based economy in the Visayas region”



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BIOMASS
B&B
BIOFUEL

“

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”

Looking at one of the BIGGEST problems that the world is facing today...



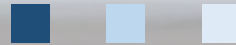
Climate Change

“Climate change is moving faster than we are ... We must listen to the Earth’s best scientists.”



-António Guterres
UN Secretary General

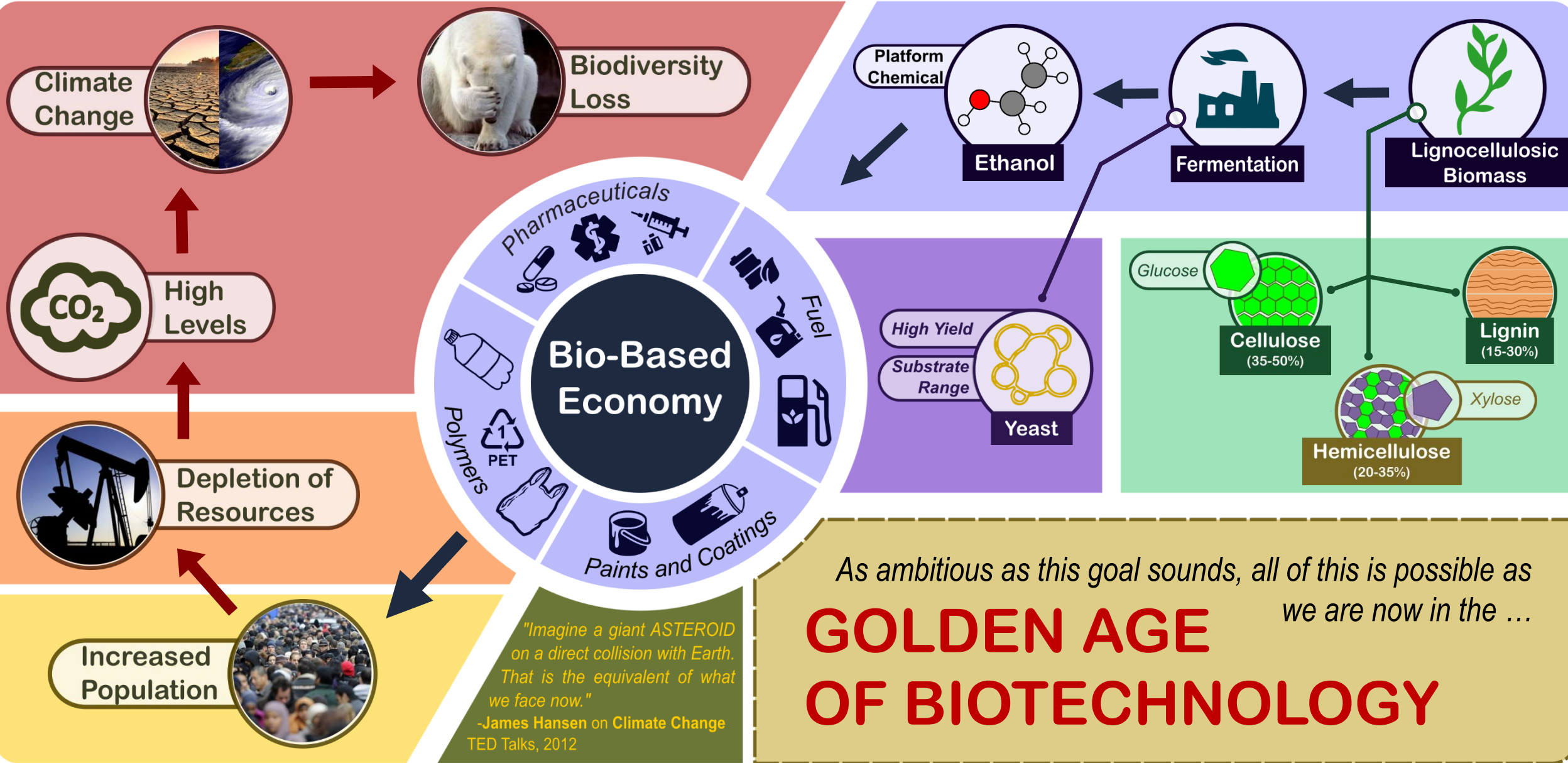
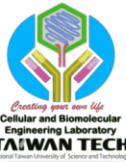
Adapted from his 2018 UN General Assembly address



ENGINEERING YEAST: A QUEST AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE



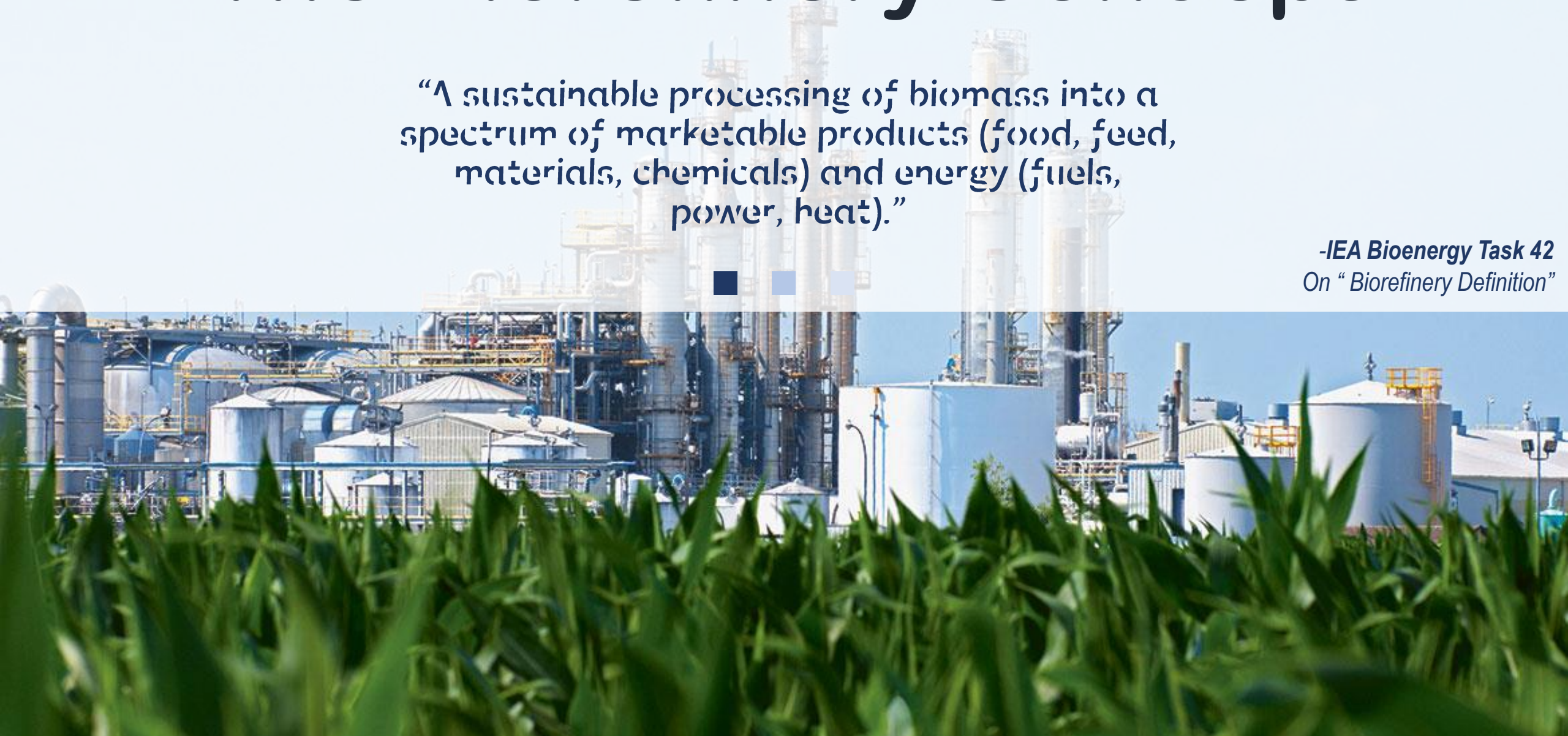
BIOMASS
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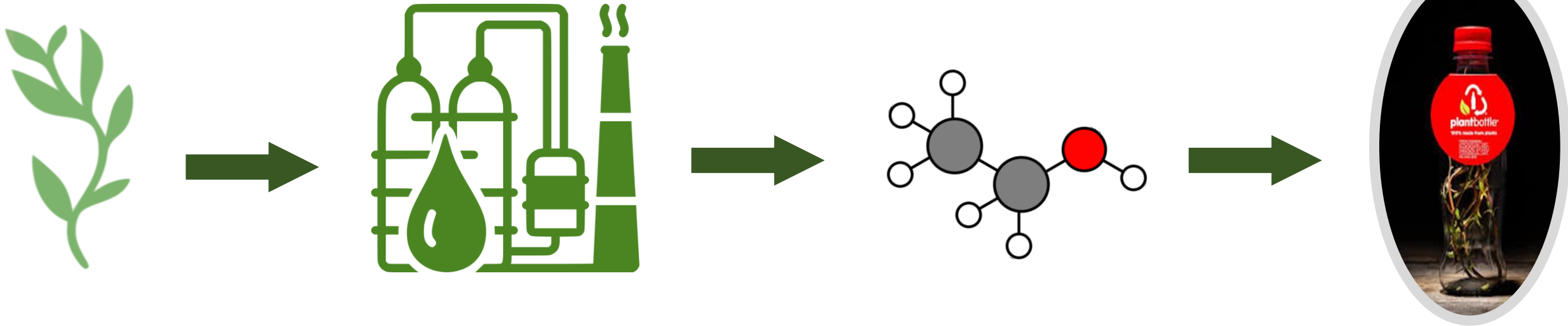
The Biorefinery Concept

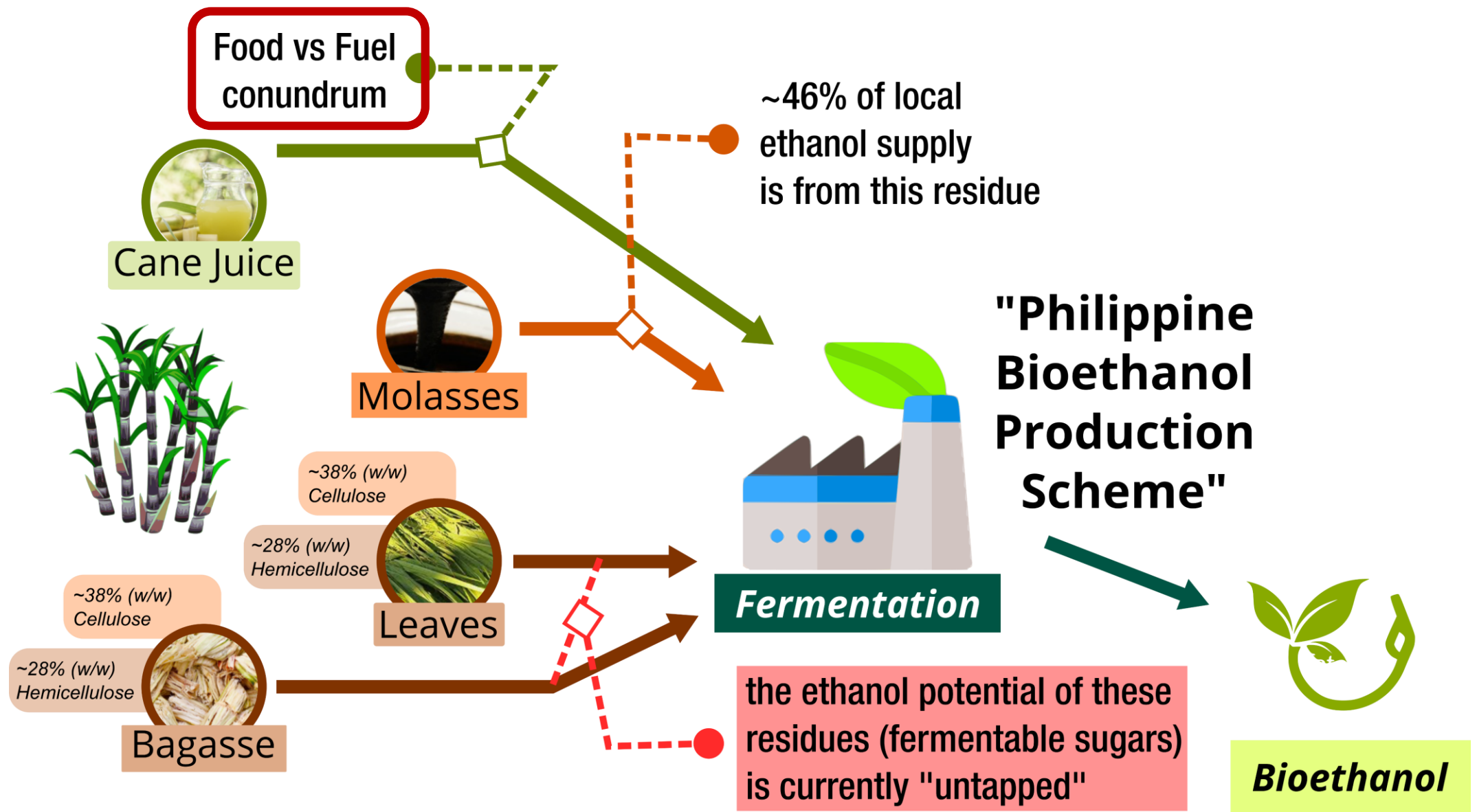
“A sustainable processing of biomass into a spectrum of marketable products (food, feed, materials, chemicals) and energy (fuels, power, heat).”

-IEA Bioenergy Task 42
On “Biorefinery Definition”



The Biorefinery Concept





The Biorefinery: Looking at the Philippine Bioethanol Scenario

The Problem

10 %v/v
blending of
bioethanol

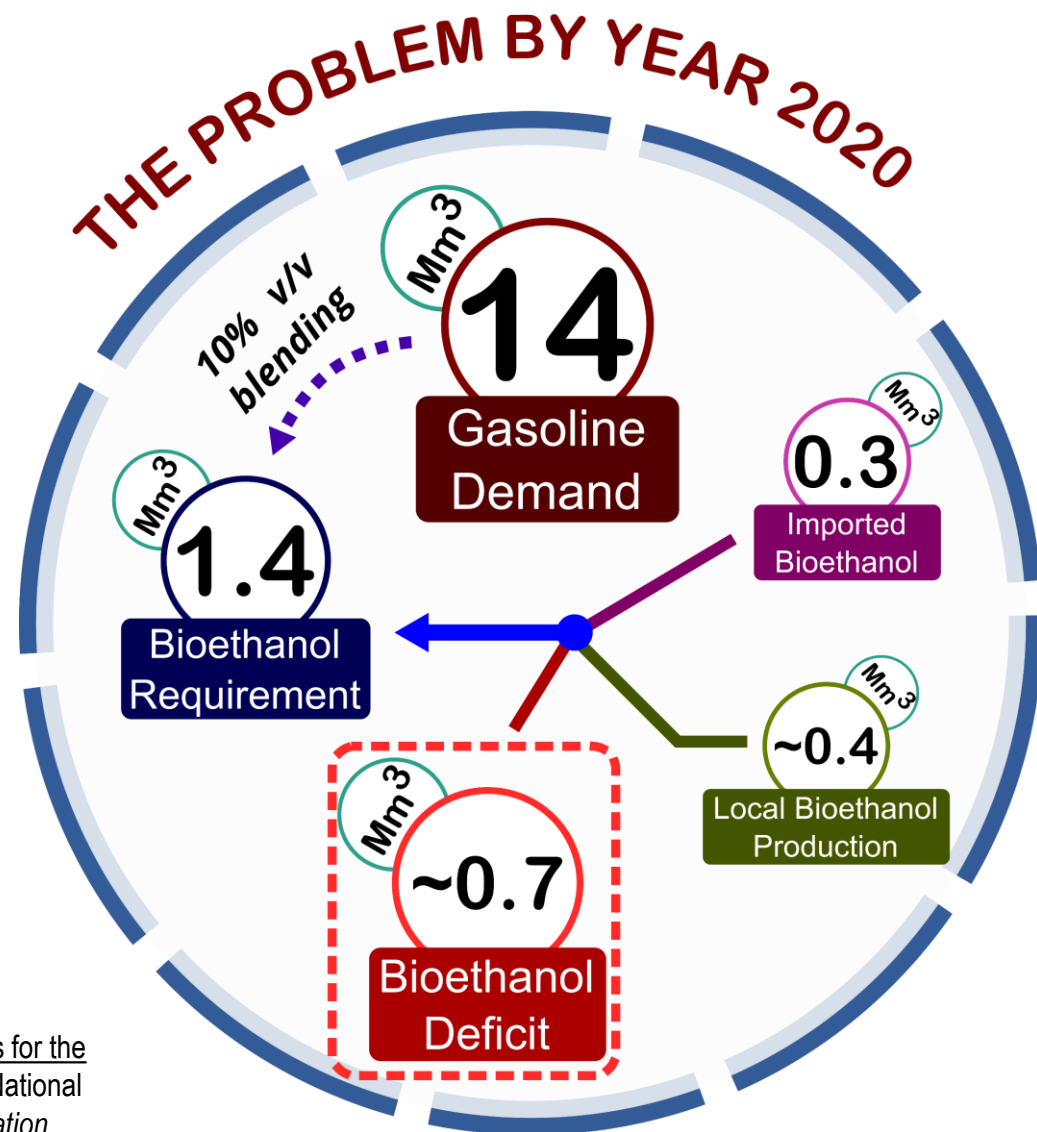
by 2020

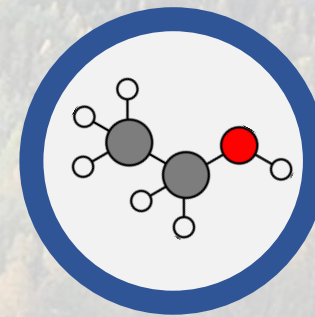
20 %v/v
blending of
bioethanol

NATIONAL
BIOFUELS BOARD
(NBB)
Department of Energy

RA 9367

BIOFUELS ACT OF 2006





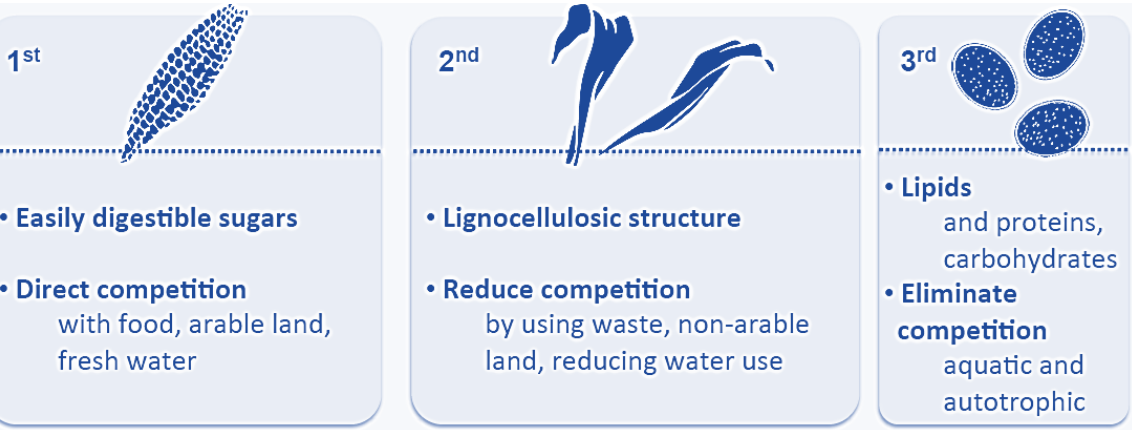
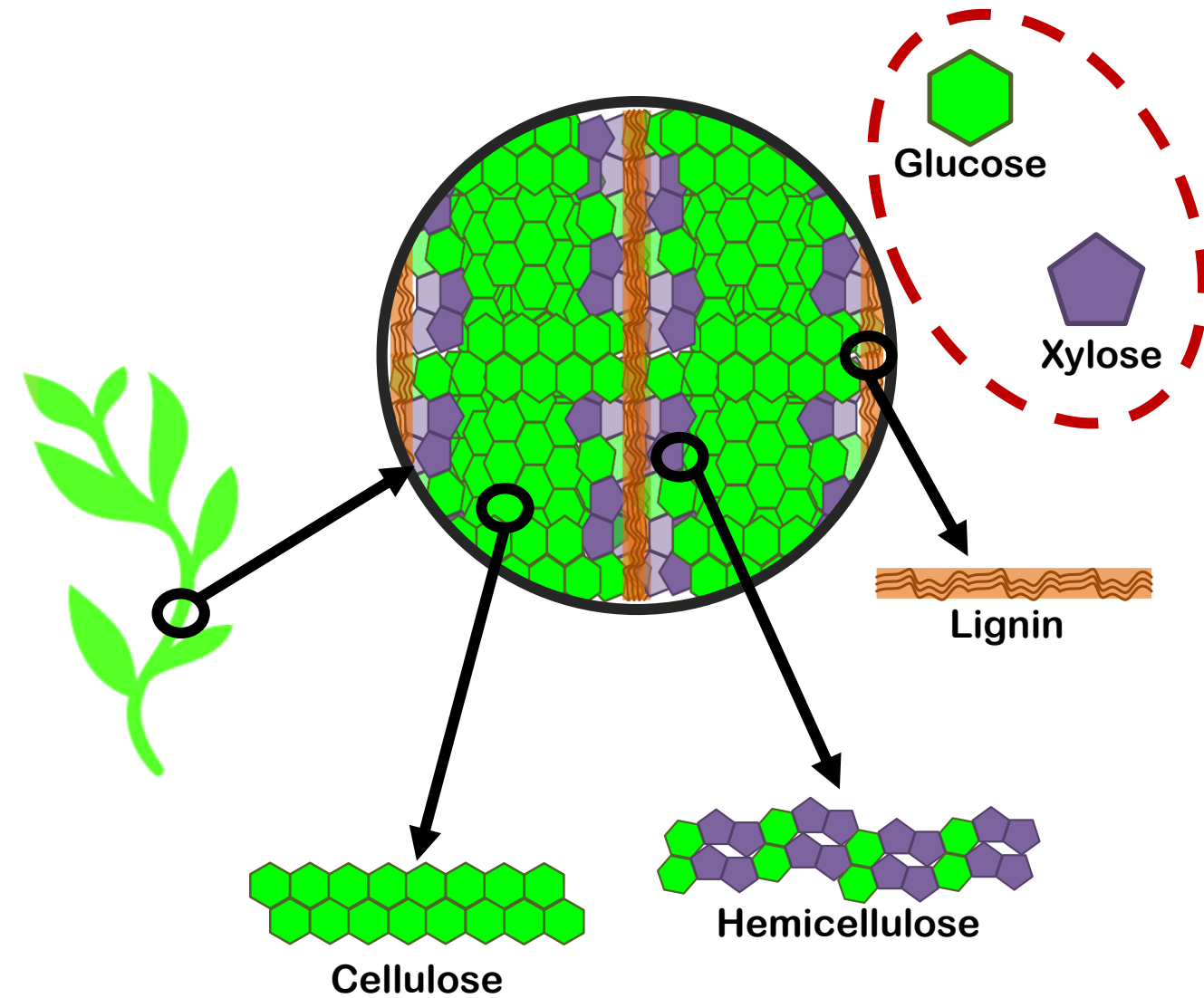
Outline of the Presentation

Biomass Feedstocks



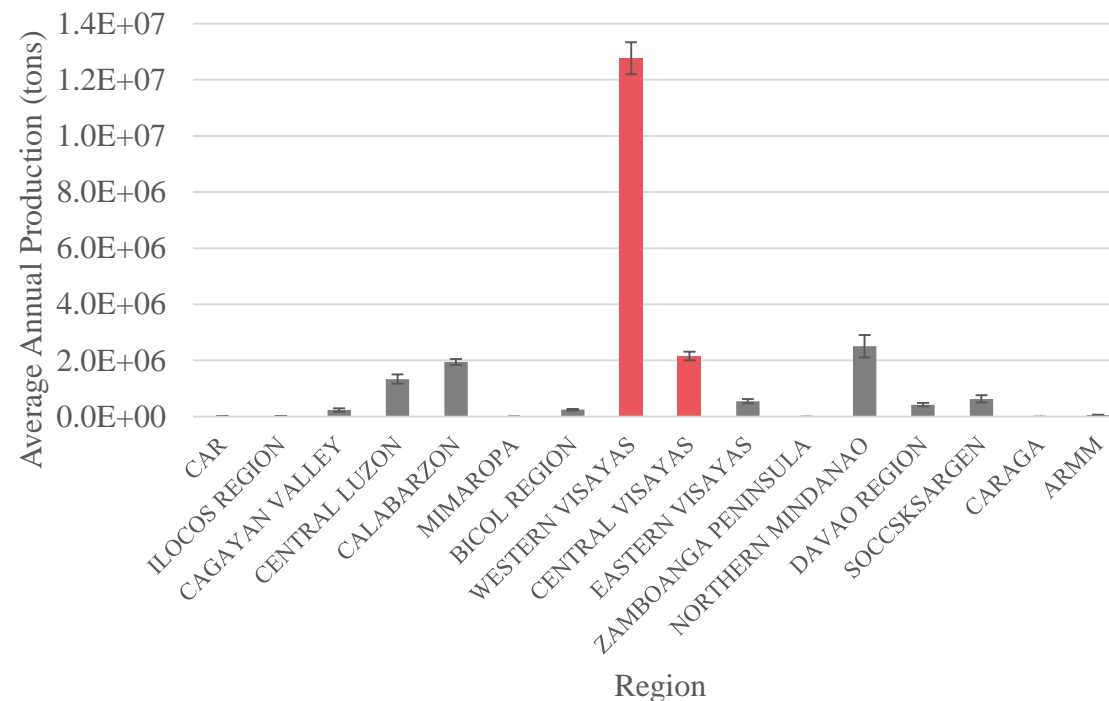
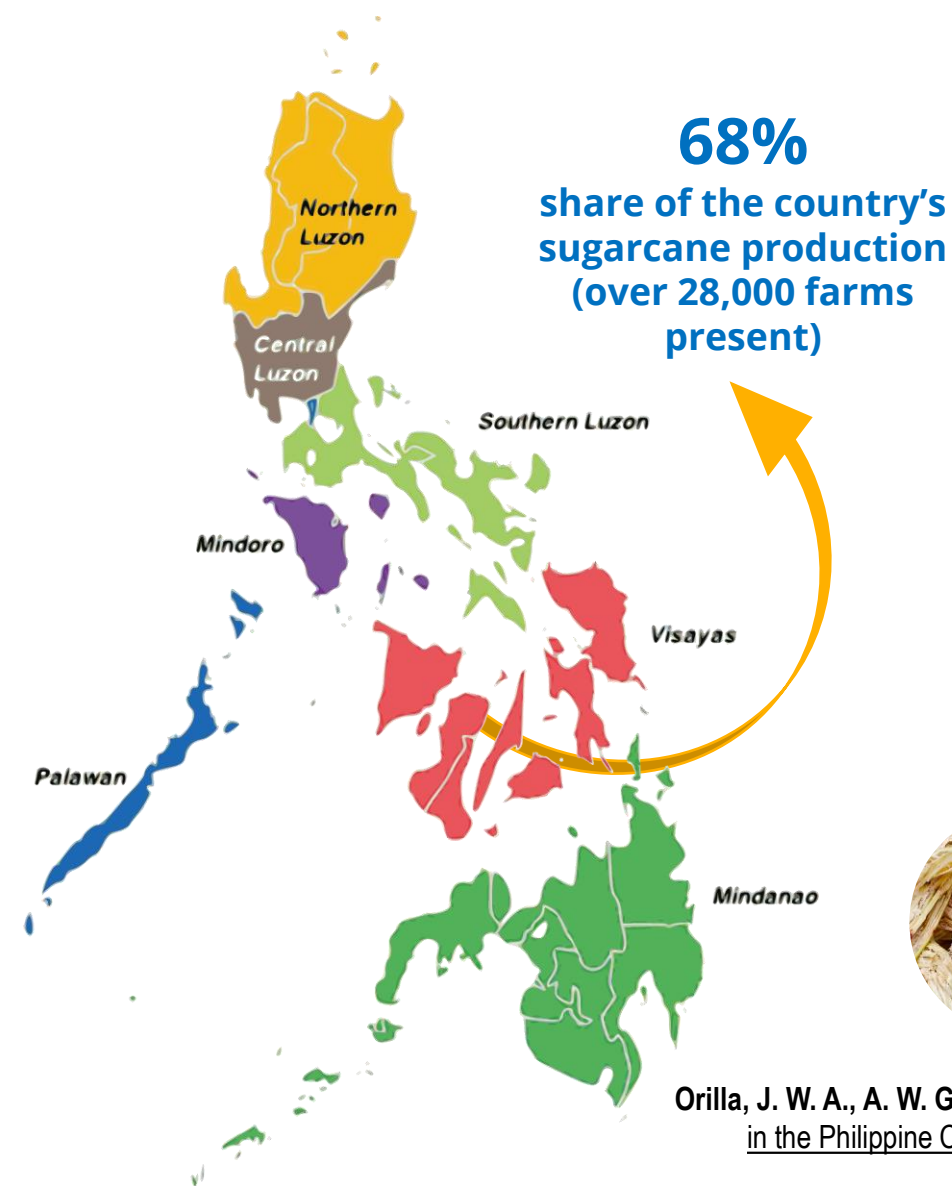
*The **Starting Point** in
unlocking our potential to
establish a
Bio-Based Economy*





Biomass Feedstocks and their Classification

Looking at what we have...



$1.06 \pm 0.28 \text{ Mm}^3$ of ethanol
from SCB recoverable
from the Visayas from
~2.16Mt of dry SCB/yr



$1.00 \pm 0.28 \text{ Mm}^3$ of ethanol
from SCL recoverable
from the Visayas from
~2.33Mt of dry SCL/yr

Orilla, J. W. A., A. W. Go, A. T. Conag, A. S. Toledo, Y. H. Ju and I. D. F. Tabañag (2019). Valorization of Sugarcane Residues for the Production of Bioethanol in the Philippine Context: A Retrospective Assessment from 2007-2017 and Future Challenges. 2019 National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP)

Annual Scientific Conference, Manila, Philippines. Manuscript Submitted for Publication

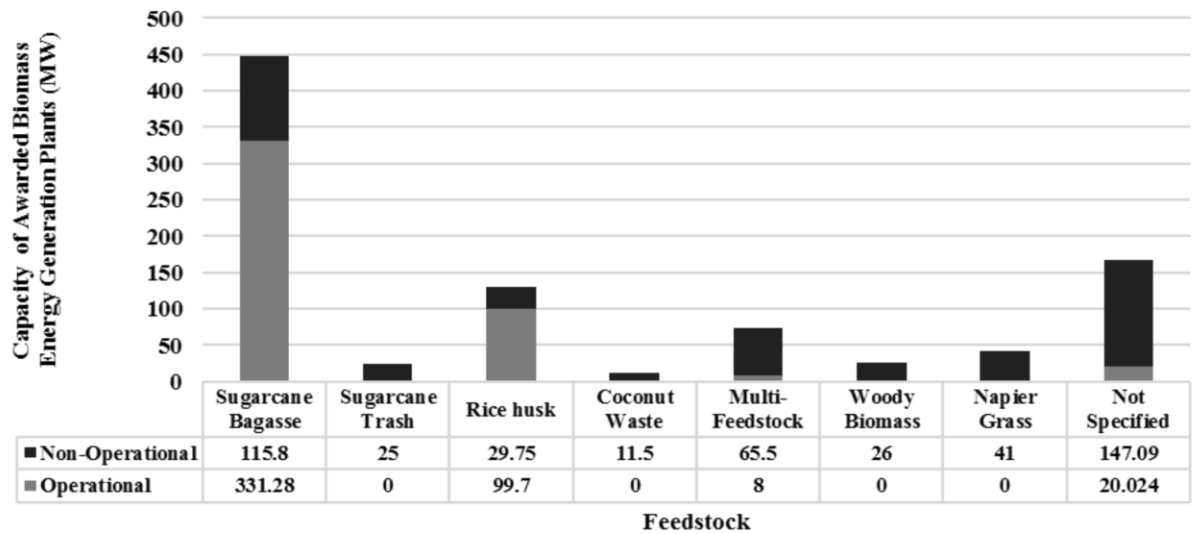


Figure 4. Capacity and distribution of awarded biomass energy generation plants in the Philippines classified according to the feedstock/fuel used as of 2017 (Data from published reports by the Department of Energy of the Philippines (Department of Energy, 2018a, 2018b) were used in generating the figure)



3.43 ± 1.1 Mt
of dry
SCL/year



3.17 ± 1.1 Mt
of dry
SCB/year



0.92 ± 0.05 Mt of
molasses/year

Percentage of the available SCB
used as solid fuel rather than
feedstock for bioethanol production

77%

The Challenge:

On spreading the awareness that this "underutilized feedstock" can be "valorized" to produce "high-value products" that can set the foundations of a bio-based economy



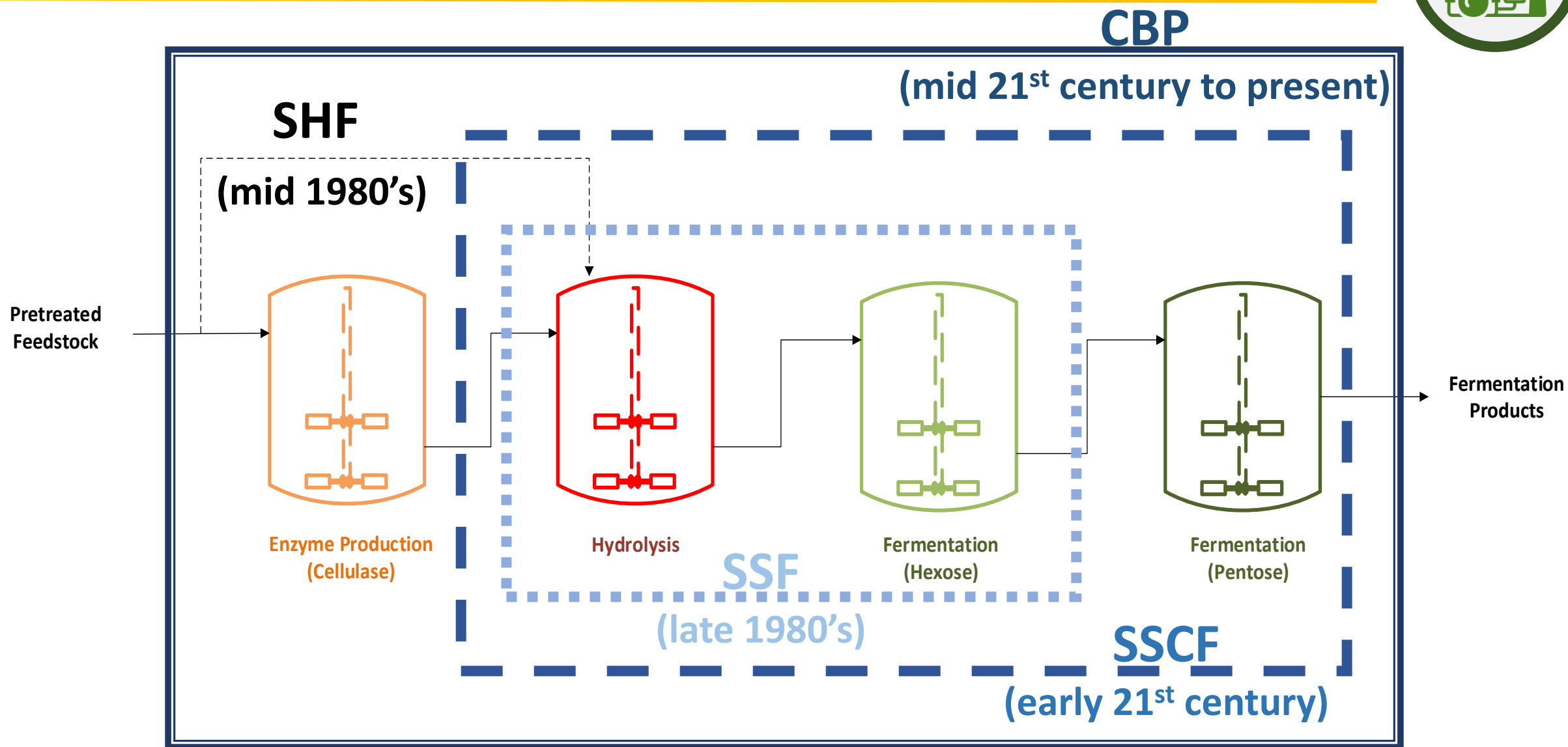
What are we doing with these sugarcane residues?

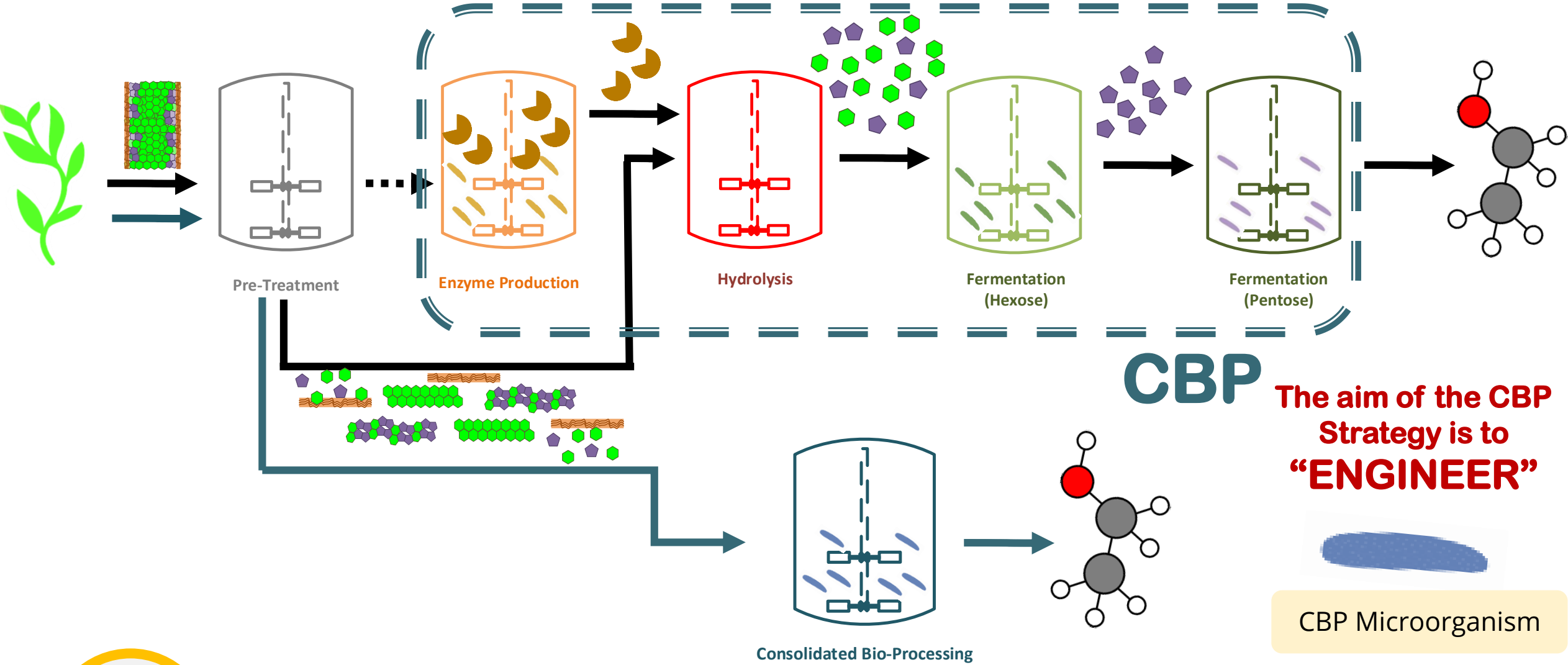
Bioprocessing



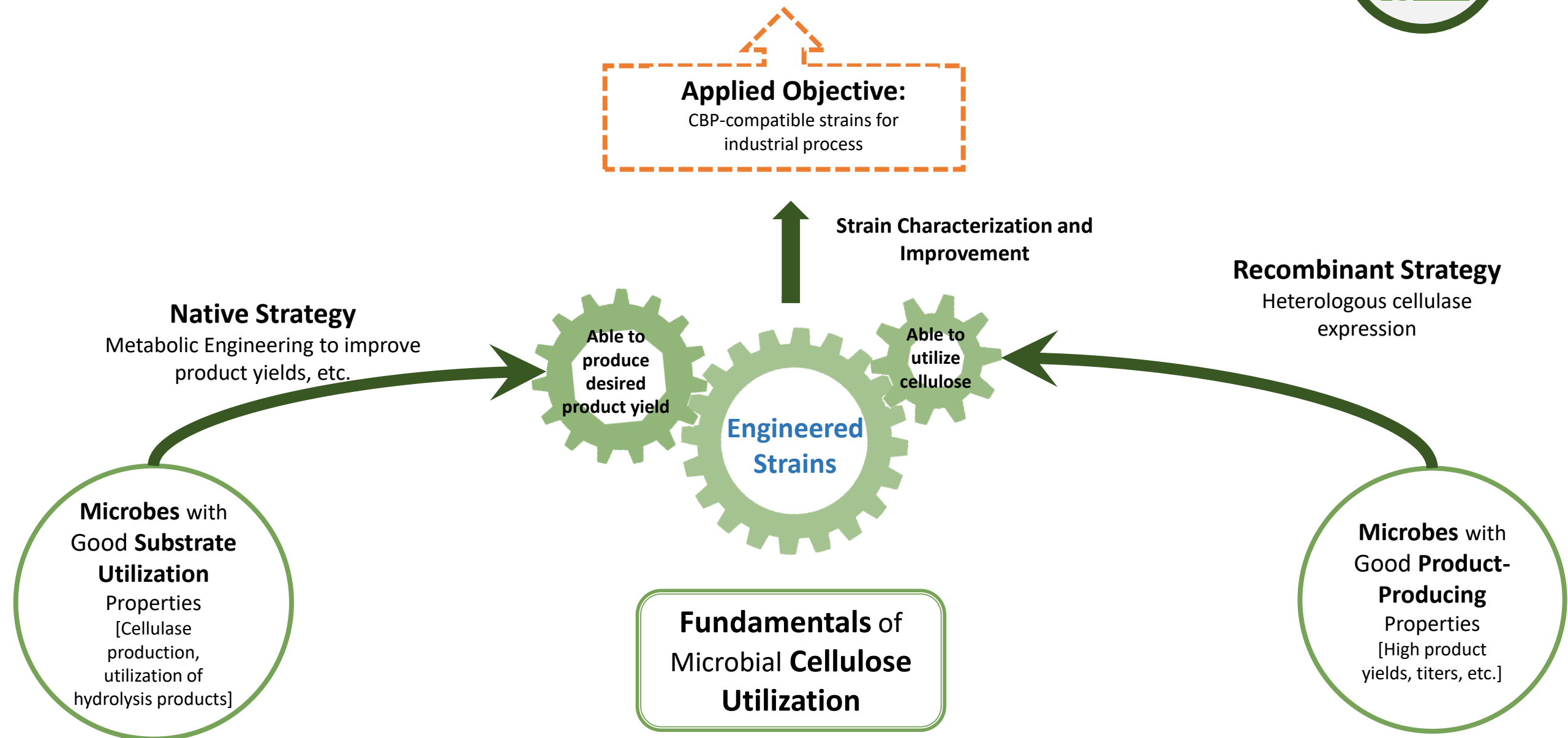
Converting biomass into
platform chemicals for
further production of bio-
based products

The Consolidated Bio-Processing Strategy: *A Perspective*





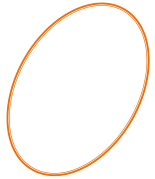
The Qualities of the CBP Microorganism



CBP Microorganism



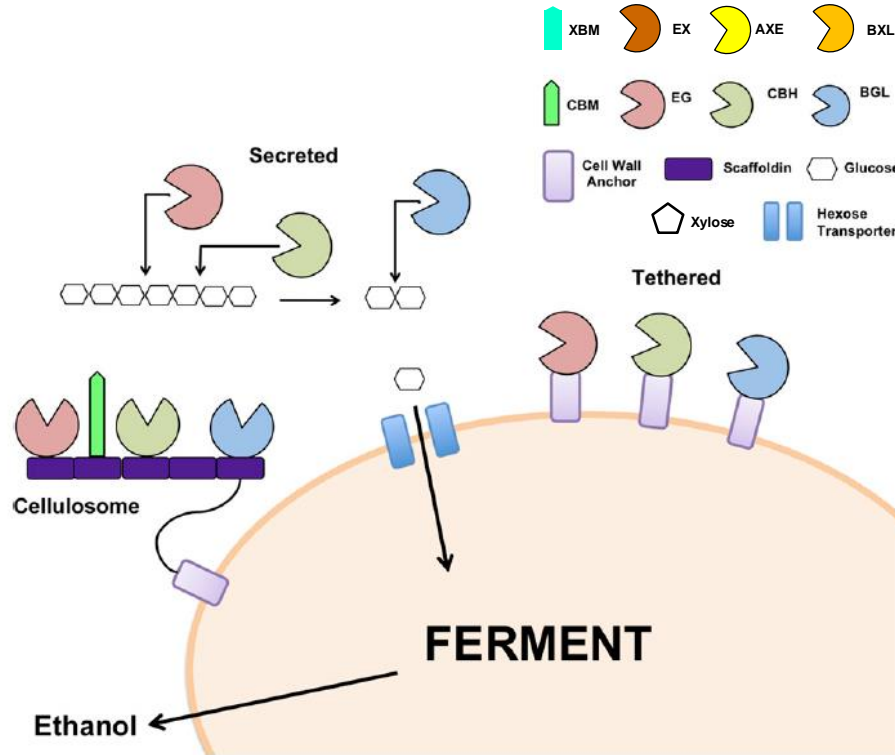
Saccharomyces cerevisiae



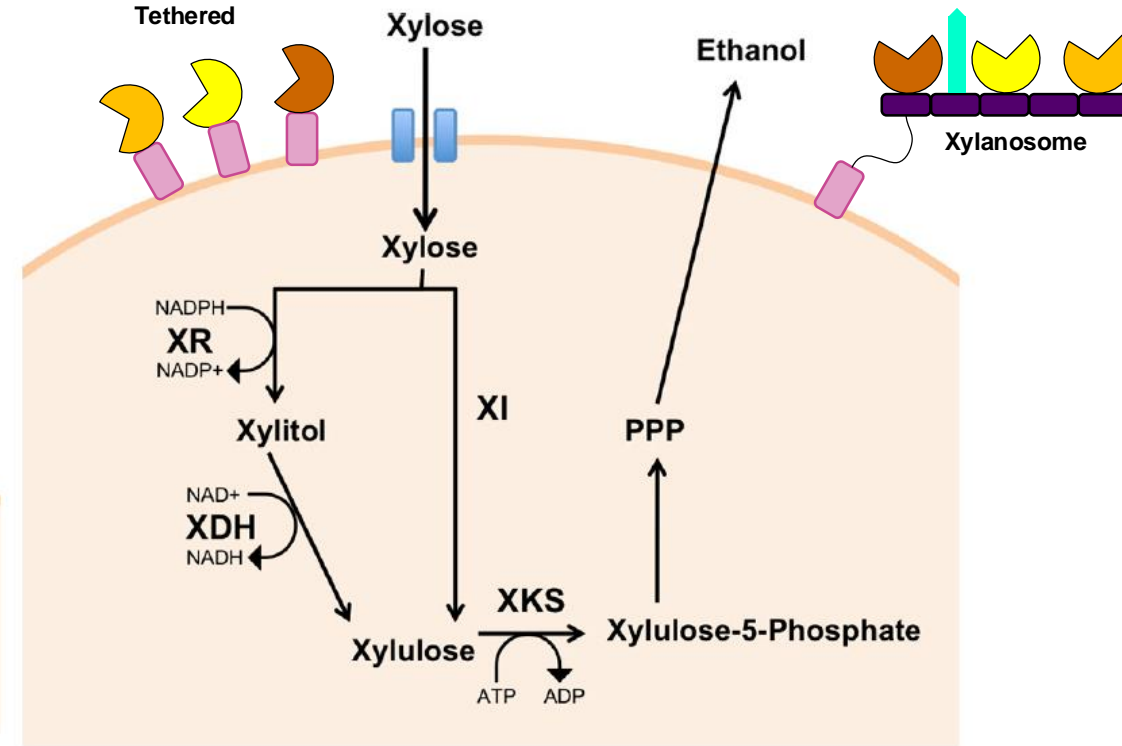
YSc



A



B



Engineering Yeast for Cellulose (A) and Hemicellulose (B) Utilization

Kricka, W., J. Fitzpatrick and U. Bond (2014). "Metabolic engineering of yeasts by heterologous enzyme production for degradation of cellulose and hemicellulose from biomass: a perspective." *Front Microbiol* 5: 174.

Lignocellulosic conversion via the CBP Microorganism

From lignocellulosic biomass to bioethanol ...

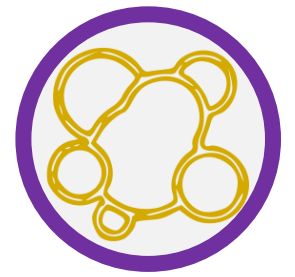
Yeast Cell Surface Display in Lignocellulosic Bioethanol Production

“this field has elevated the status of *S. cerevisiae* as a novel and attractive microorganism to be a platform for enzyme immobilization which enables it to target nonconventional substrates and at the same time, renewable self-immobilized biocatalysts (a.k.a whole-cell biocatalysts) .”

-Ueda and Tanaka 2000
J. Biosci. Bioeng

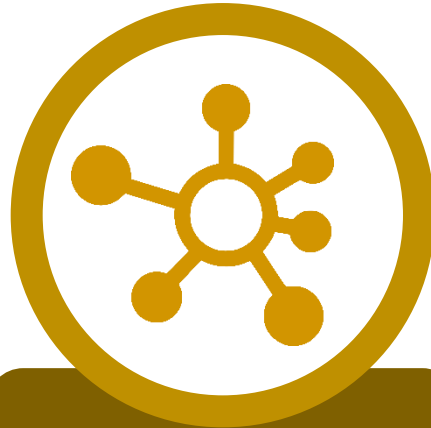


Why Yeast Cell Surface Display???



Substrate Channeling

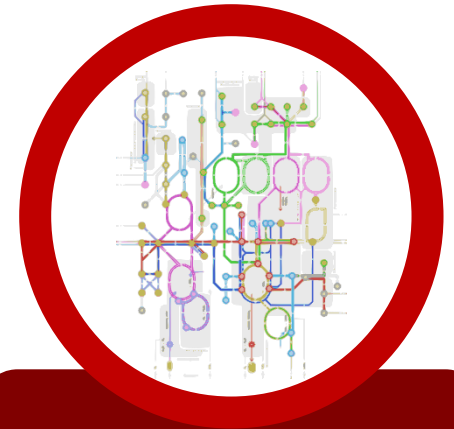
**Enhanced Relative
Enzymatic Activity**



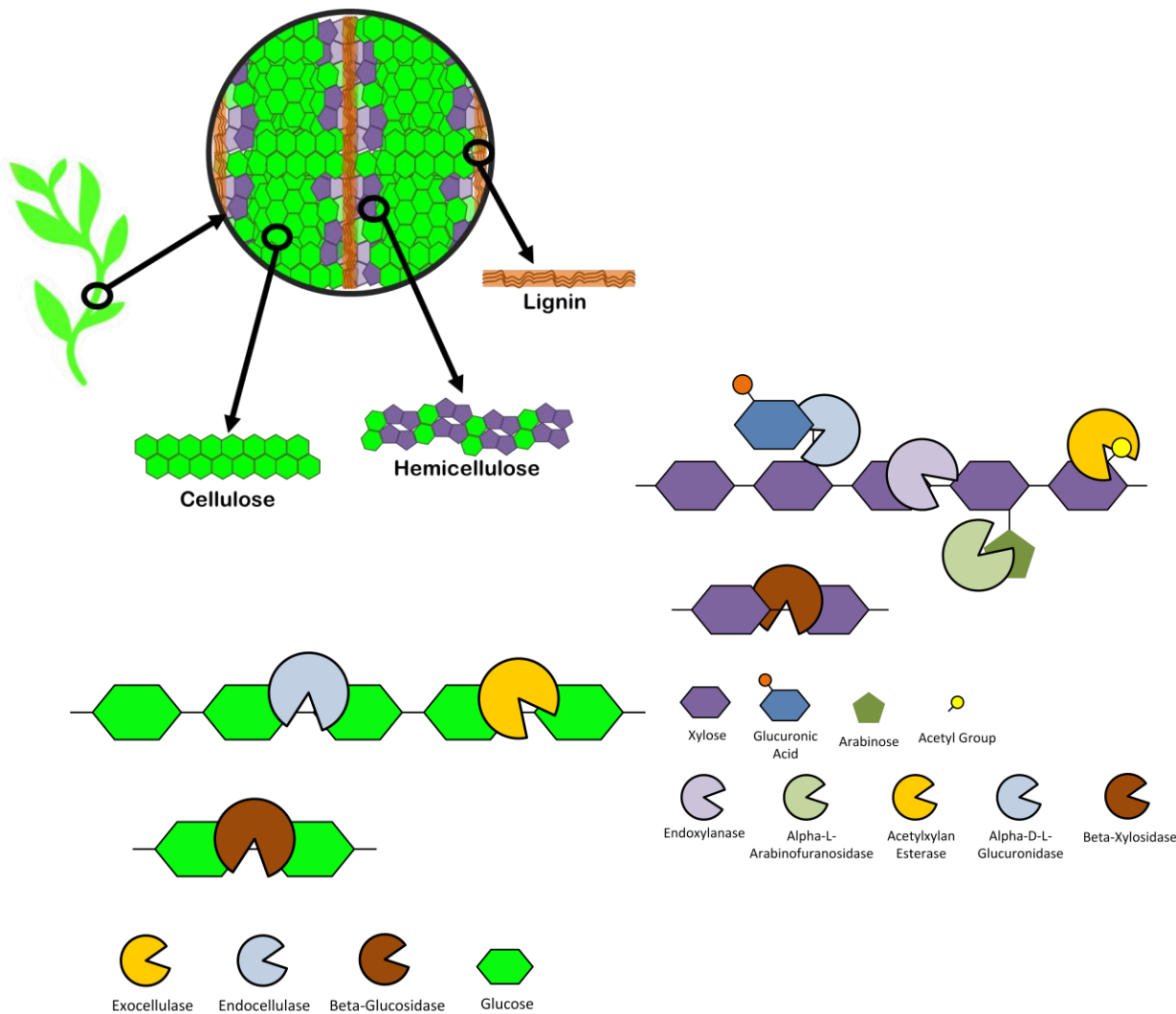
**High Enzyme
Loading**



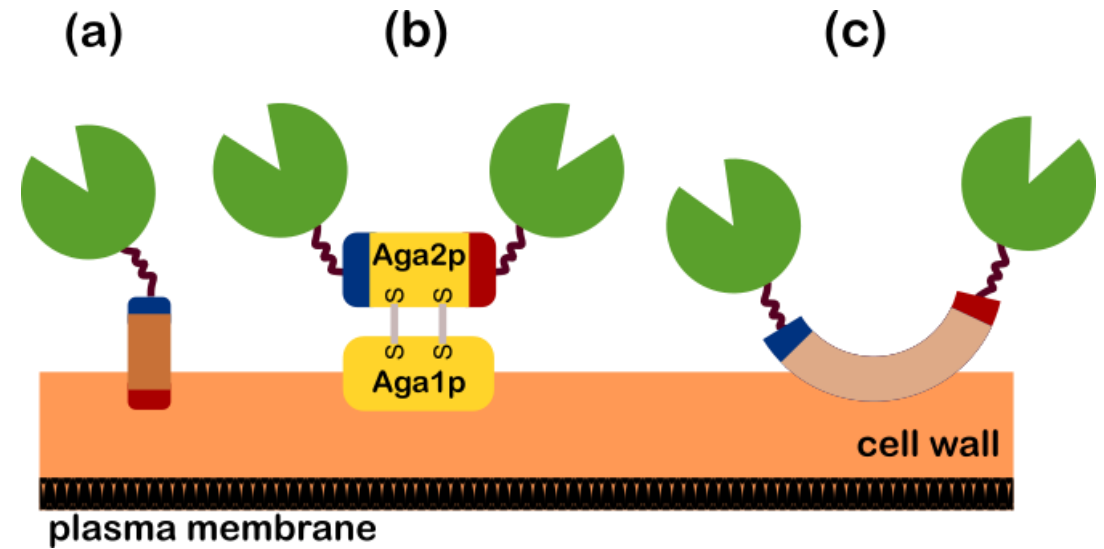
**Ease of Recovery
and Recyclability**



**Metabolic Pathway
Expansion**



The Inherent Surface Display Systems in *S. cerevisiae*



Common anchor protein systems used in yeast surface display: **(a)** N-terminal fused anchor proteins (SAG1, SED1, or CWP2); **(b)** the a-agglutinin display system; and, **(c)** the Flo1p-based display system. Anchor proteins: N-Terminal depicted in blue, and C-terminal depicted in red.

(<https://www.yeastgenome.org/>)

Kricka, W., J. Fitzpatrick and U. Bond (2014). "Metabolic engineering of yeasts by heterologous enzyme production for degradation of cellulose and hemicellulose from biomass: a perspective." *Front Microbiol* 5: 174.



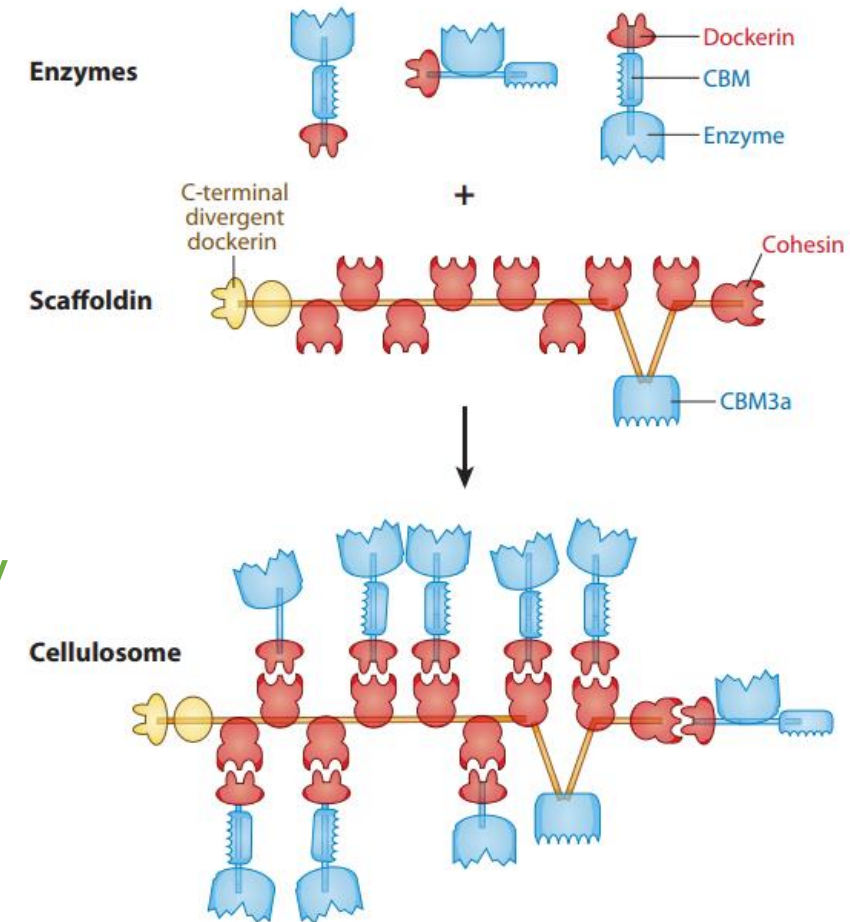
On Yeast Surface Display and Lignocellulose Conversion - I

On the discovery of the structured assembly of cellulolytic enzymes on *Clostridium thermocellum*



At the height of **biomimicry**, this discovery has been exploited for its functional assembly characteristic

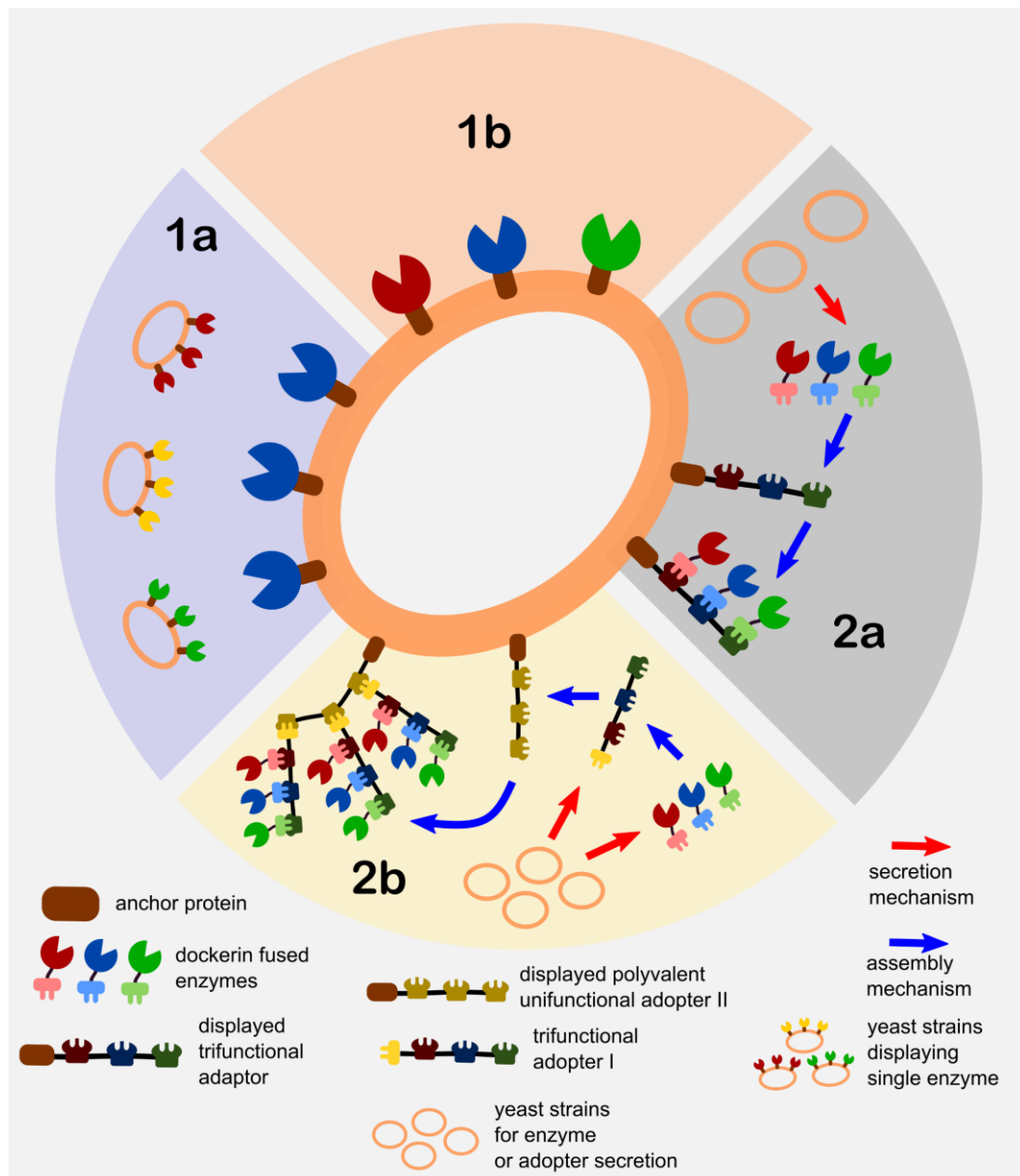
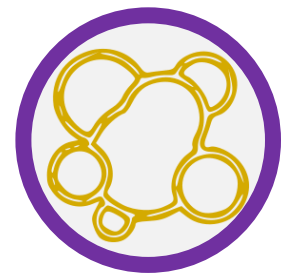
THE CELLULOSOME STRUCTURE



Fontes, C. M. and H. J. Gilbert (2010). "Cellulosomes: highly efficient nanomachines designed to deconstruct plant cell wall complex carbohydrates." *Annu Rev Biochem* 79(1): 655-681.



How is this platform exploited for Bioethanol Production?



Direct Yeast Surface Display (DYSD)

directly involves the fusion of the enzyme of interest/s to the yeast anchor protein for it to be expressed and localize on the cell surface

1a – Single Enzyme Display Consortium (SEDC)

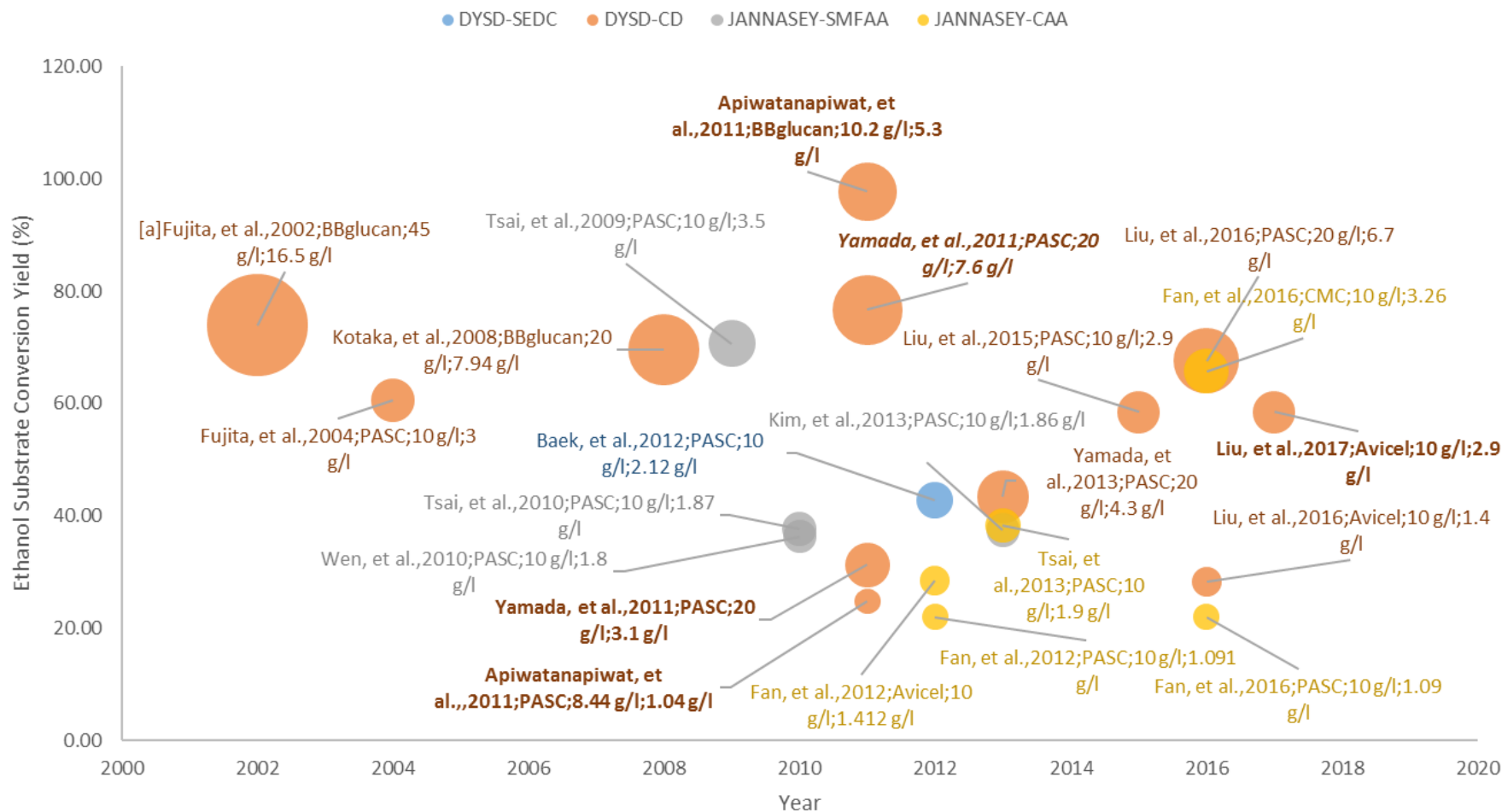
1b – Co-Display (CD)

Juxtaposed Assembly of Non-Native Adaptors and Secreted Enzymes on Yeast (JANNASEY)

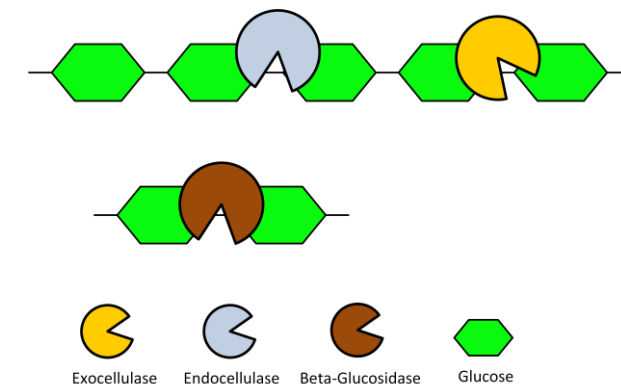
developed based on the biomimicry of the “cellulosome” machinery of several anaerobic cellulose-consuming microorganisms (e.g., clostridia, ruminal bacteria)

2a – Single Multi-Functional Adaptor Assembly (SMFAA)

2b – Complex Adaptor Assembly (CAA)



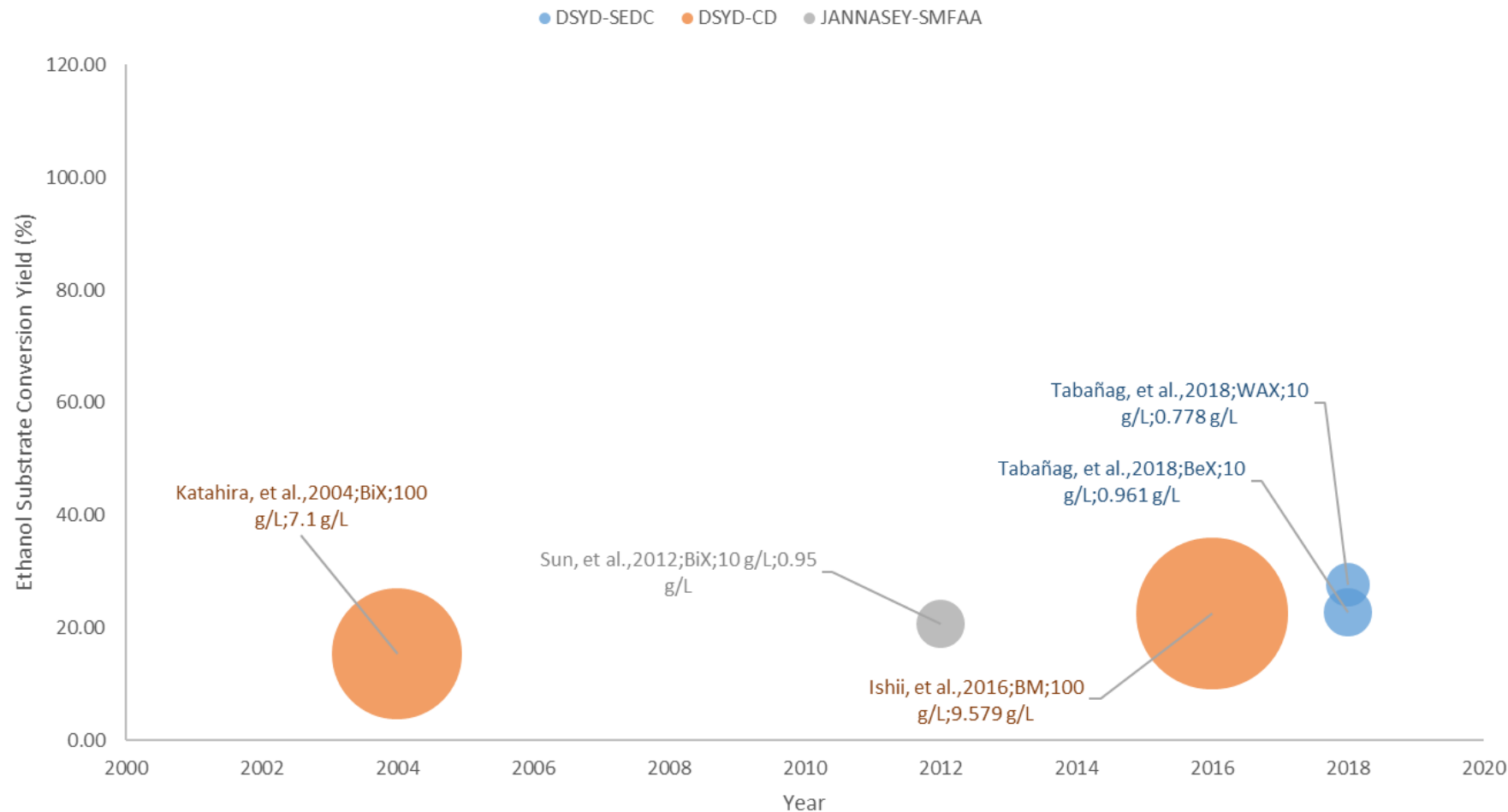
Visualization of the status and development of yeast surface display for Cellulosic Bioethanol Production. Bubble sizes represent ethanol titer. Data labels are formatted as follows: (Reference (author-date); Substrate; Substrate Concentration; Ethanol Titer). For the DYSD-CD data set: labels in boldface represent cellulase ratio control via delta-integration; labels in italic represent utilization of diploid host strains.



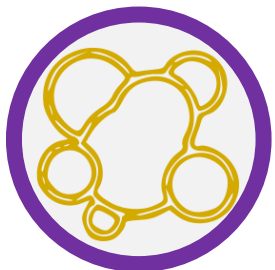
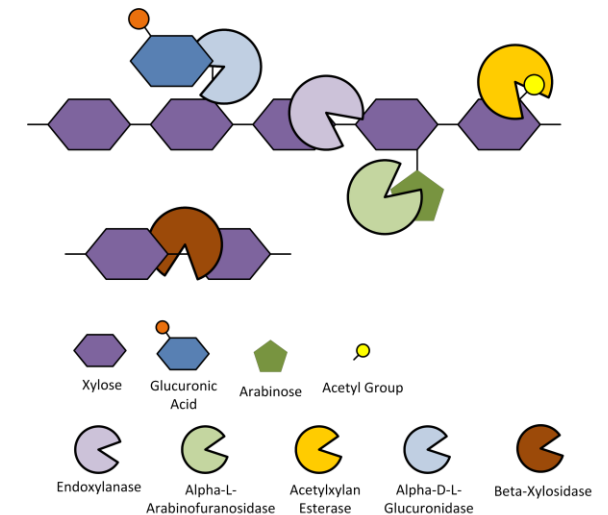
Tabañag, I. D. F., I.-M. Chu, Y.-H. Wei and S.-L. Tsai (2018). "The Role of Yeast-Surface-Display Techniques in Creating Biocatalysts for Consolidated BioProcessing." *Catalysts* 8(3): 94.



YSD and Bioethanol Production from Pure Polysaccharide Substrates



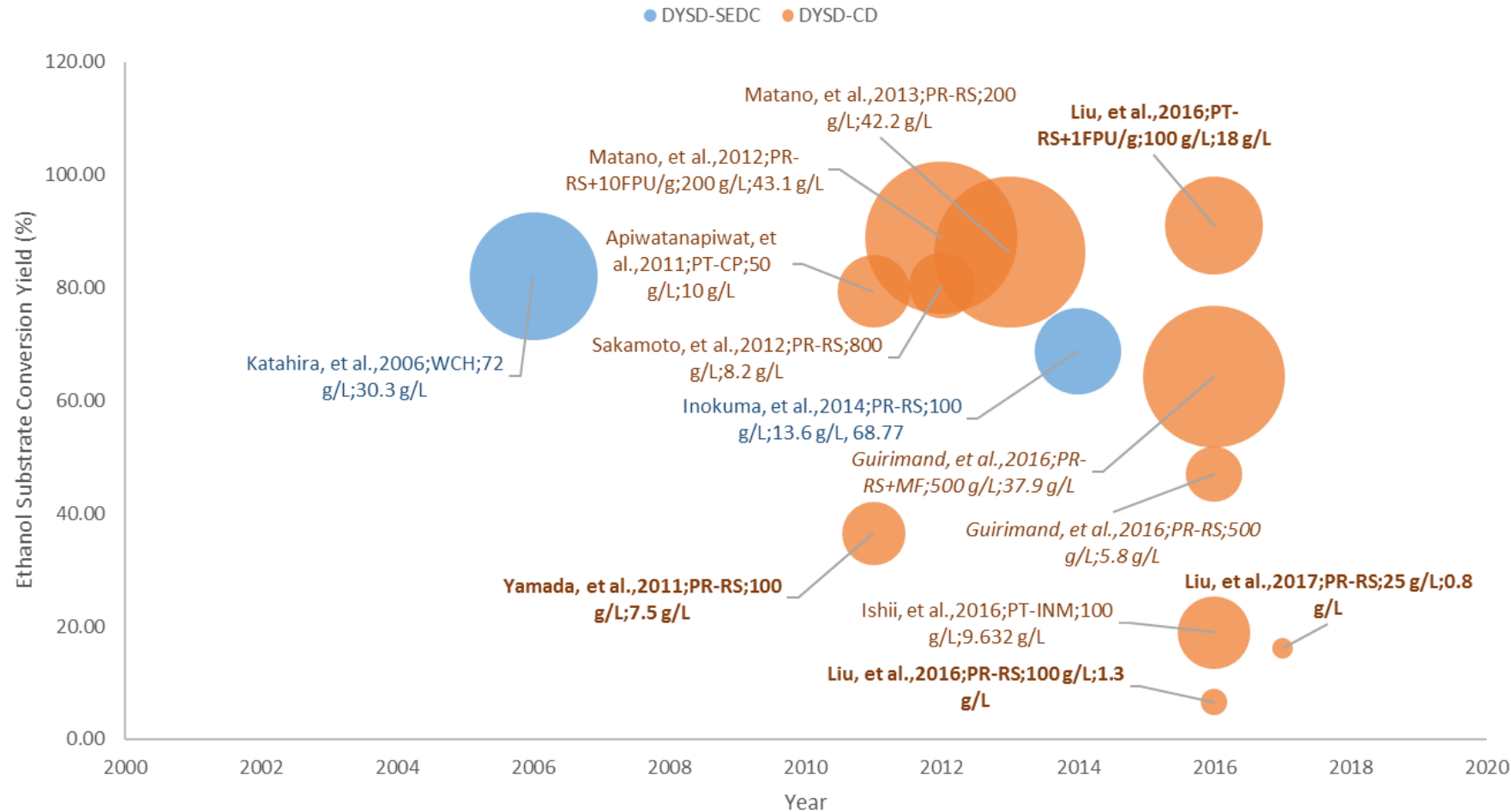
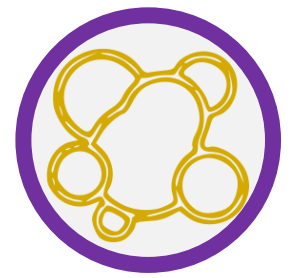
Visualization of the status and development of yeast surface display for Hemicellulosic Bioethanol Production. Bubble sizes represent ethanol titer. Data labels are formatted as follows: (Reference (author-date); Substrate; Substrate Concentration; Ethanol Titer).



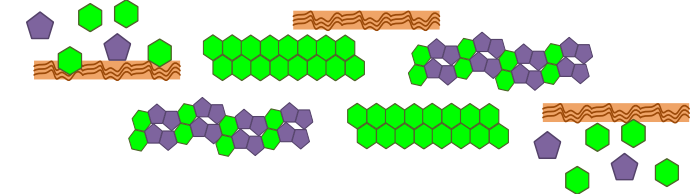
Tabañag, I. D. F., I.-M. Chu, Y.-H. Wei and S.-L. Tsai (2018). "The Role of Yeast-Surface-Display Techniques in Creating Biocatalysts for Consolidated BioProcessing." *Catalysts* 8(3): 94.

YSD and Bioethanol Production from Pure Polysaccharide Substrates

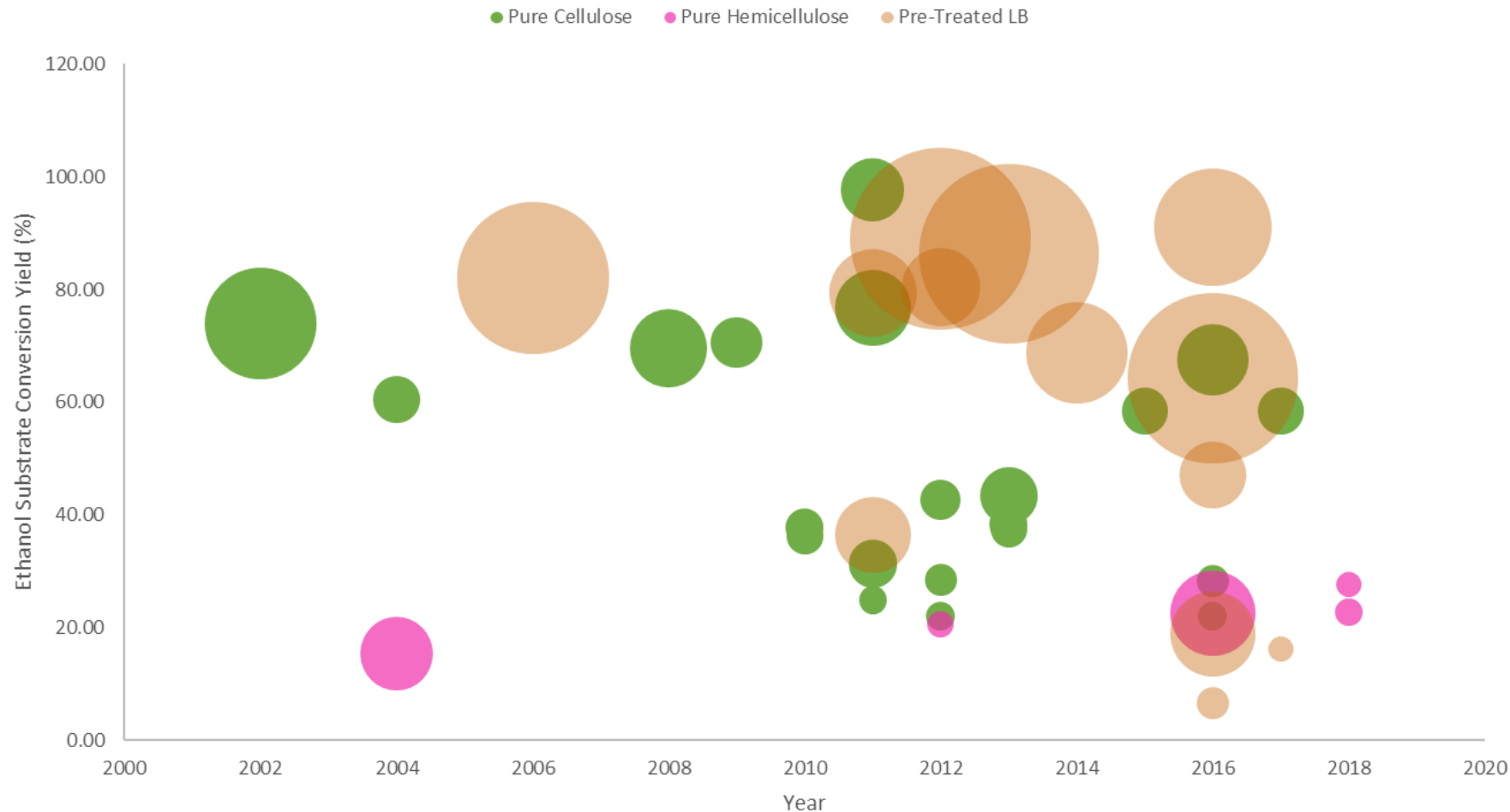
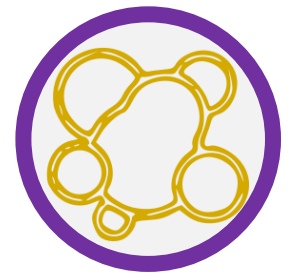
YSD and Bioethanol Production from Pre-Treated LB Substrates



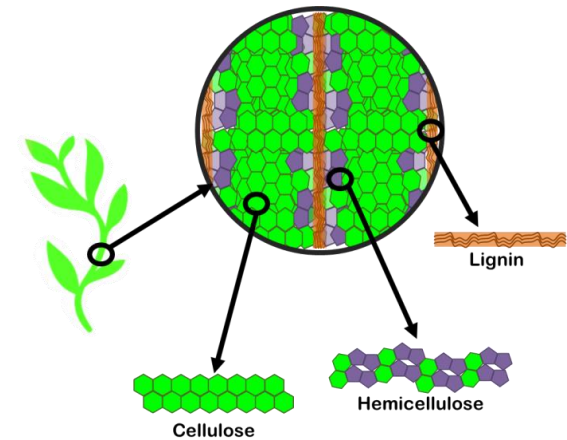
Visualization of the status and development of yeast surface display for Bioethanol Production from Pre-Treated Lignocellulosic Biomass. Bubble sizes represent ethanol titer. Data labels are formatted as follows: (Reference (author-date); Substrate; Substrate Concentration; Ethanol Titer). For DYSD-CD data sets: labels in boldface represent cellulase ratio control via delta-integration; labels in italic represent the xylitol fermentation parameters instead of ethanol.



A perspective on the extent of YSD application to various substrates

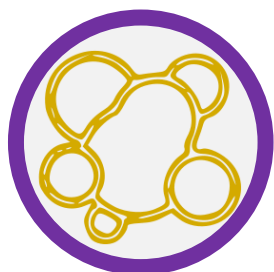
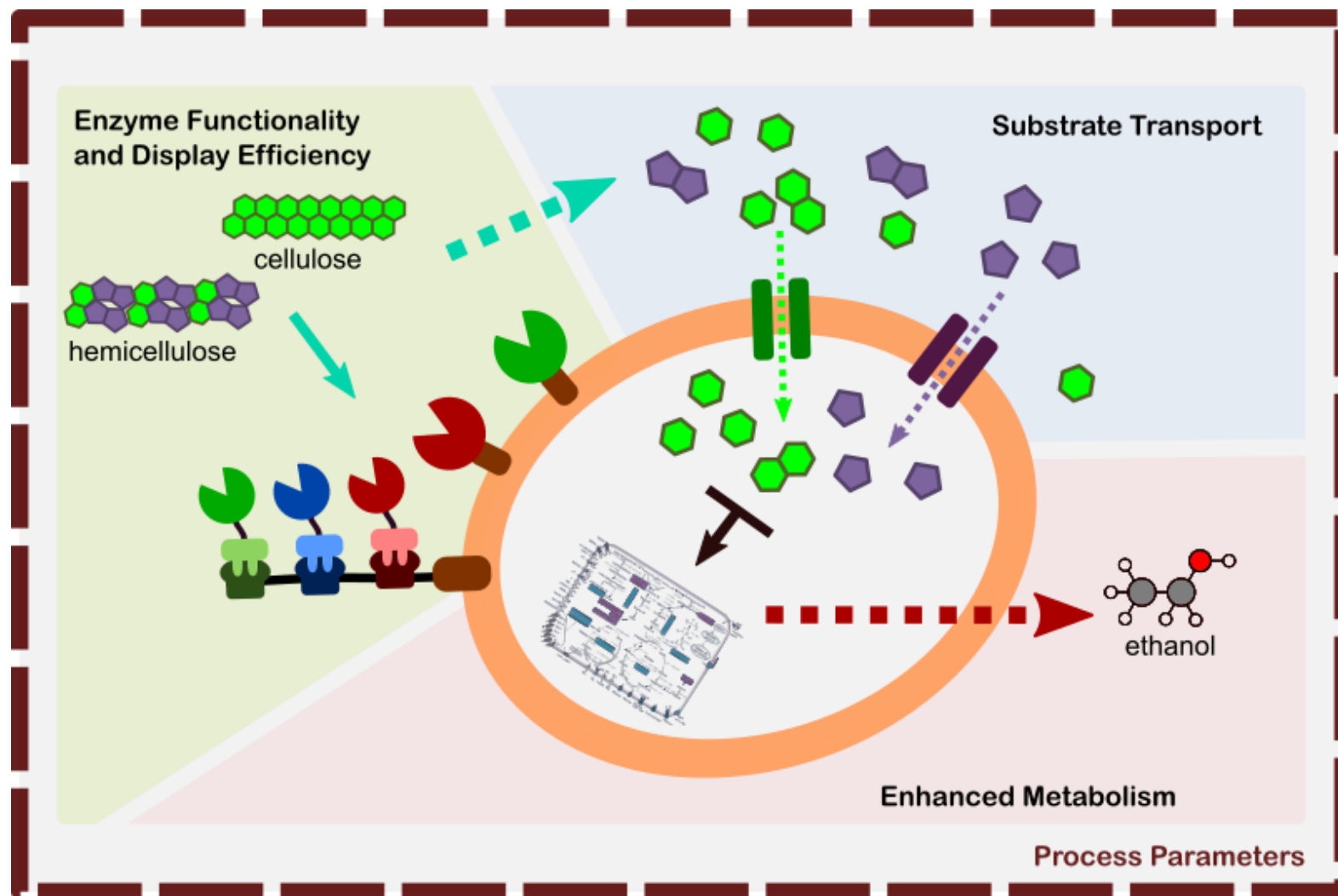


Visualization of the status and development of yeast surface display for Bioethanol Production from Pre-Treated Lignocellulosic Biomass. Bubble sizes represent ethanol titer. Data labels are formatted as follows: (Reference (author-date); Substrate; Substrate Concentration; Ethanol Titer). For DSYD-CD data sets: labels in boldface represent cellulase ratio control via delta-integration; labels in *italic* represent the xylitol fermentation parameters instead of ethanol.



"The Role of Yeast Surface Display in Bioethanol Production from Lignocellulosic Substrates"

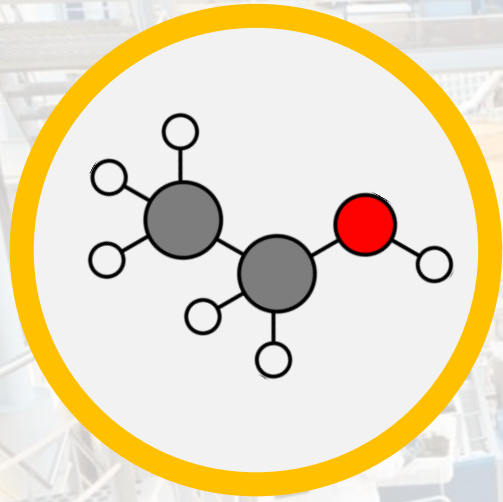
On the Variables that Affect the Strain Performance



Tabañag, I. D. F., I.-M. Chu, Y.-H. Wei and S.-L. Tsai (2018). "The Role of Yeast-Surface-Display Techniques in Creating Biocatalysts for Consolidated BioProcessing." *Catalysts* 8(3): 94.

On the avenues of improvement

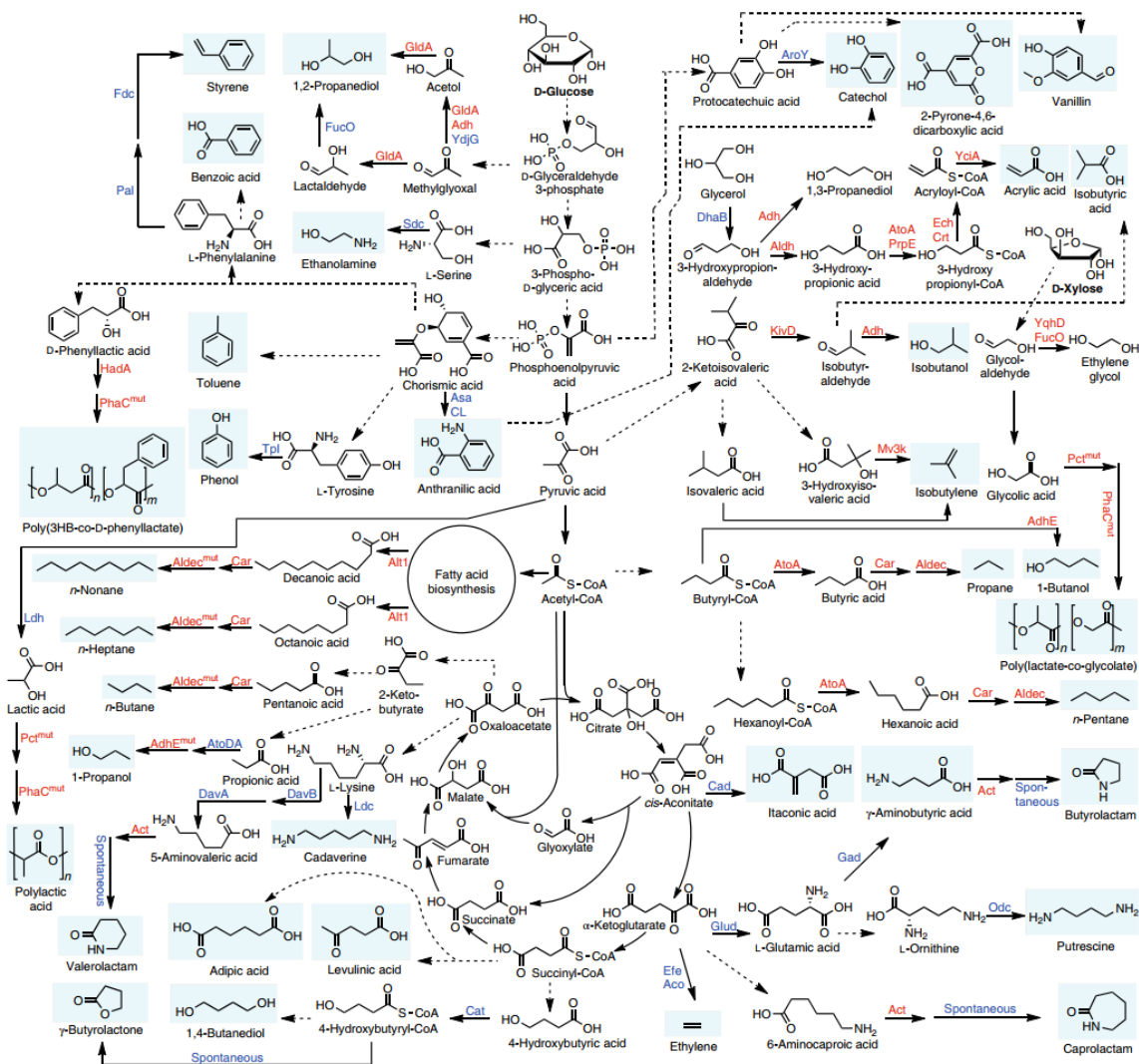
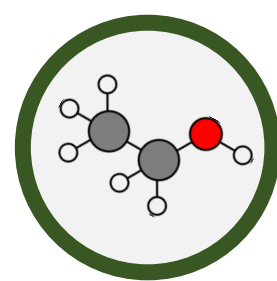
Bio-Based Platform Chemicals



A prelude to “**Bio-based Products**”



Taking a peek at the bio-based platform chemicals production



Industrial chemicals and materials produced using only biological reactions. This simplified map covers 92 out of 435 chemicals and materials (boxed) presented in the poster (downloadable through the QR code). Solid and dotted arrows indicate single and multiple reaction steps, respectively. The abbreviated enzyme names indicate enzymes with a single substrate specificity (blue) and those with a broad substrate range (red). Glucose is used as a representative carbon source towards the production of industrially relevant chemicals and materials. Xylose is another carbon source that is also often considered for the production of ethylene glycerol and poly(lactate-co-glycolate). The fatty acid biosynthetic pathway is presented as a circle to indicate a series of fatty acid chain elongation reactions.



Bio-Based
Chemicals Map



Bio-Based
Chemicals Paper

The Chemical Engineer and his/her role in our transition towards the Bio-based Economy

“the mission and essence of chemical engineering is to come up with processes to make materials wanted by man-new or improved processes to replace older less efficient ones, and processes to make completely new materials. In a nutshell we are the chefs of science and technology, and as I put it here, it's a two-step affair-conceiving or dreaming up a scheme, and then making it come real. “

-Octave Levenspiel, 1988

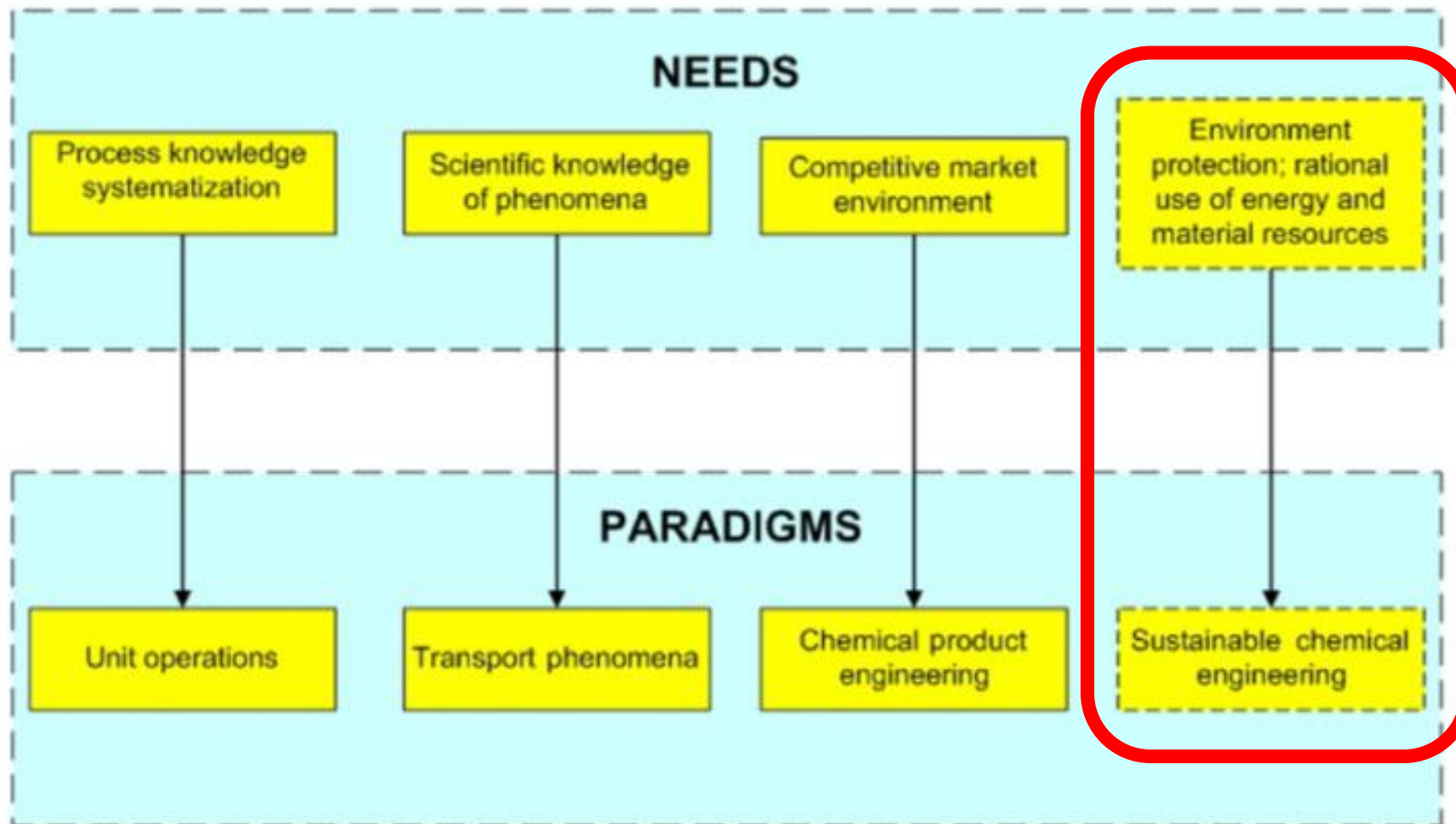
In “Chemical Engineering's Grand Adventure”



The Chemical Engineering Paradigms

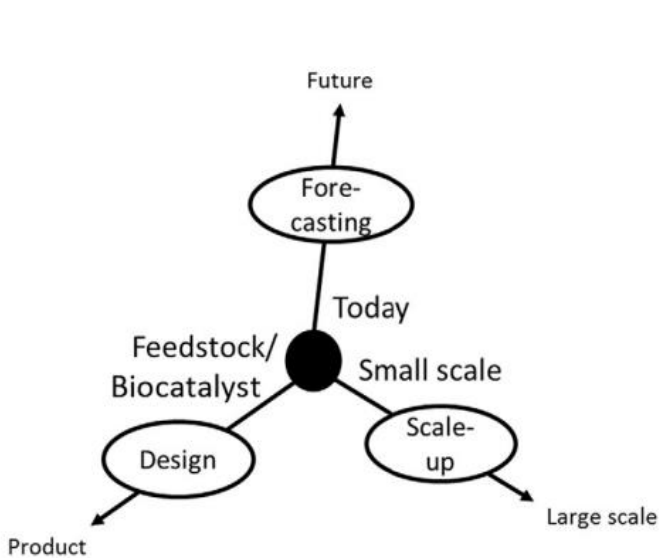


The needs in the evolution of chemical engineering and its corresponding paradigms

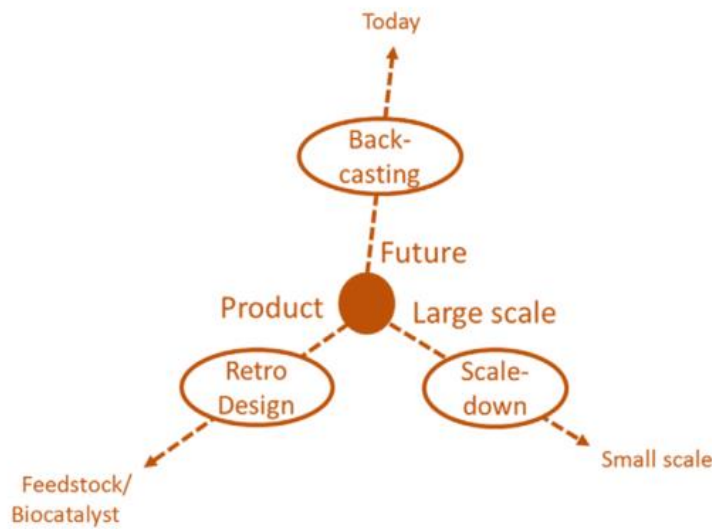


"The mission and essence of biochemical engineering is to deliver products that are desired by humanity, from processes where microorganisms, enzymes and/or cell lines convert renewable feedstocks, or intermediates derived from them, into added-value products in a chain of operations. Similar to chemical engineering, also biochemical engineering is a two-step activity: first conceiving a design, and then putting it into reality."

Bioprocess Design in the context of 'transitioning from a fossil-based to a bio-based economy...'



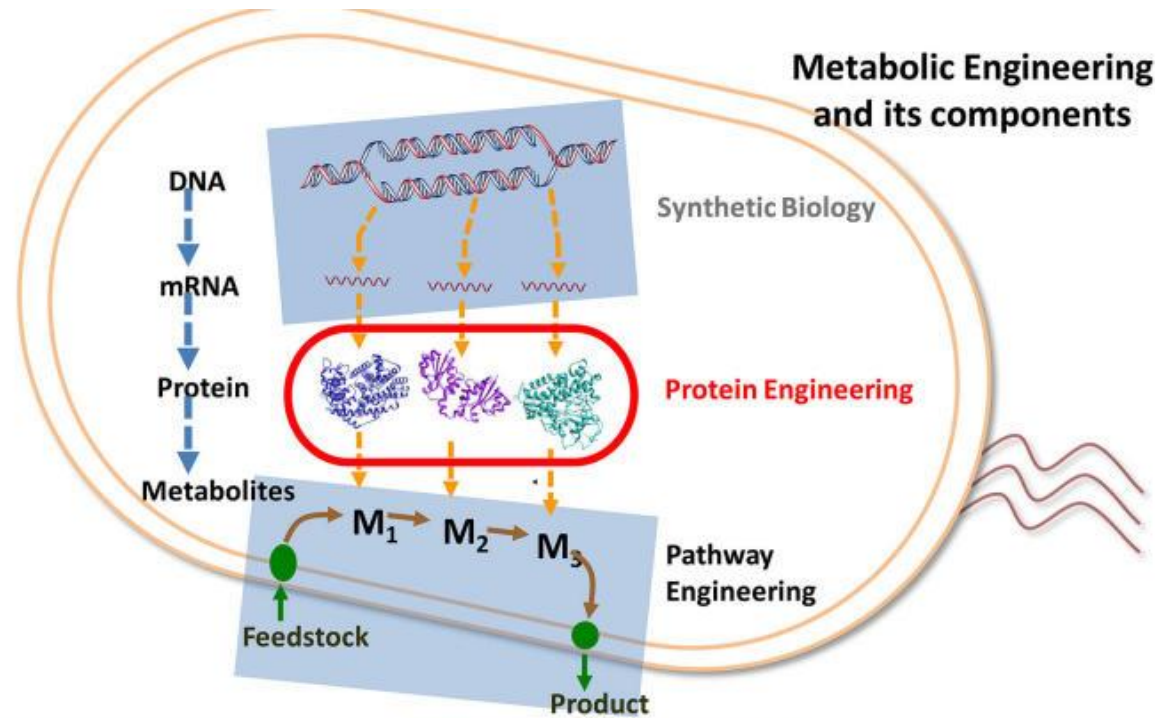
traditional approach in bioprocess design



recommended view on bioprocess design, with a reversed perspective in three dimensions. This turns value chain design into retro design, forecasting into backcasting and scale-up into scale-down



Looking at Biotechnology through the perspective of a Chemical Engineer



Synthetic Biology

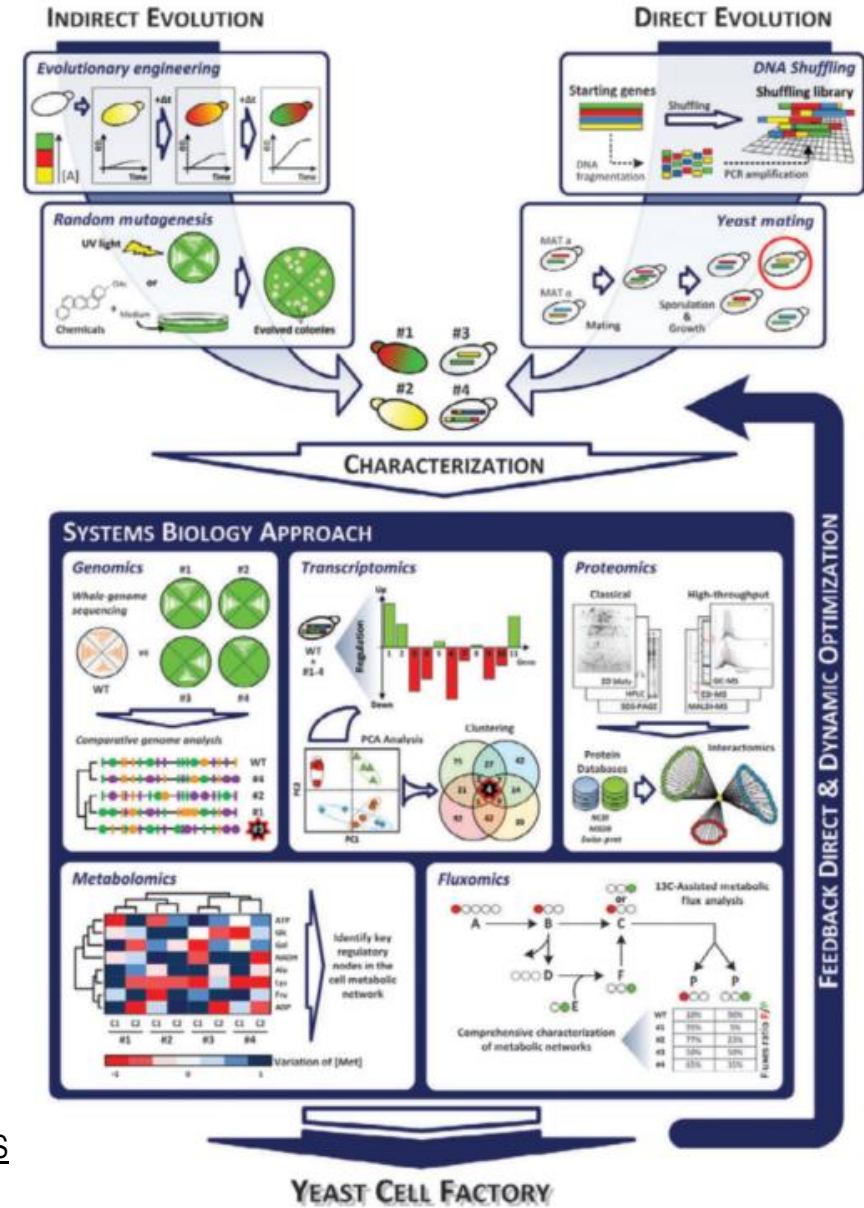
- Designed
 - genome
 - promoter & RBS
 - operon structure
 - mRNA secondary structure
- Transcription efficiency
- Translational rate
- mRNA stability

Protein Engineering

- Enzyme
 - rational design
 - semi rational design
 - directed evolution
- Catalytic rate
- Specificity
- Solubility & Stability
- Allosteric inhibition

Pathway Engineering

- Pathway & gene
 - overexpression
 - deletion
 - flux balance
 - modeling
- Productivity
- Yield
- Growth rate



Stephanopoulos, G. (2012). "Synthetic Biology and Metabolic Engineering." *ACS Synthetic Biology* 1(11): 514-525.

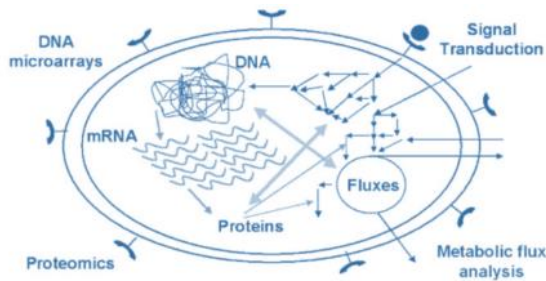
Kim, I.-K., A. Roldão, V. Siewers and J. Nielsen (2012). "A systems-level approach for metabolic engineering of yeast cell factories." *FEMS Yeast Research* 12(2): 228-248.

“

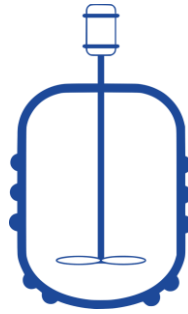
Chemical engineers conceive and rigorously solve problems on a '**continuum**'
of scales' ranging from **microscale** to **macroscale**

”

Microscale
($\leq 10^{-3}$ m)



Mesoscale
(10^{-3} - 10^2 m)



Macroscale
($> 10^2$ m)

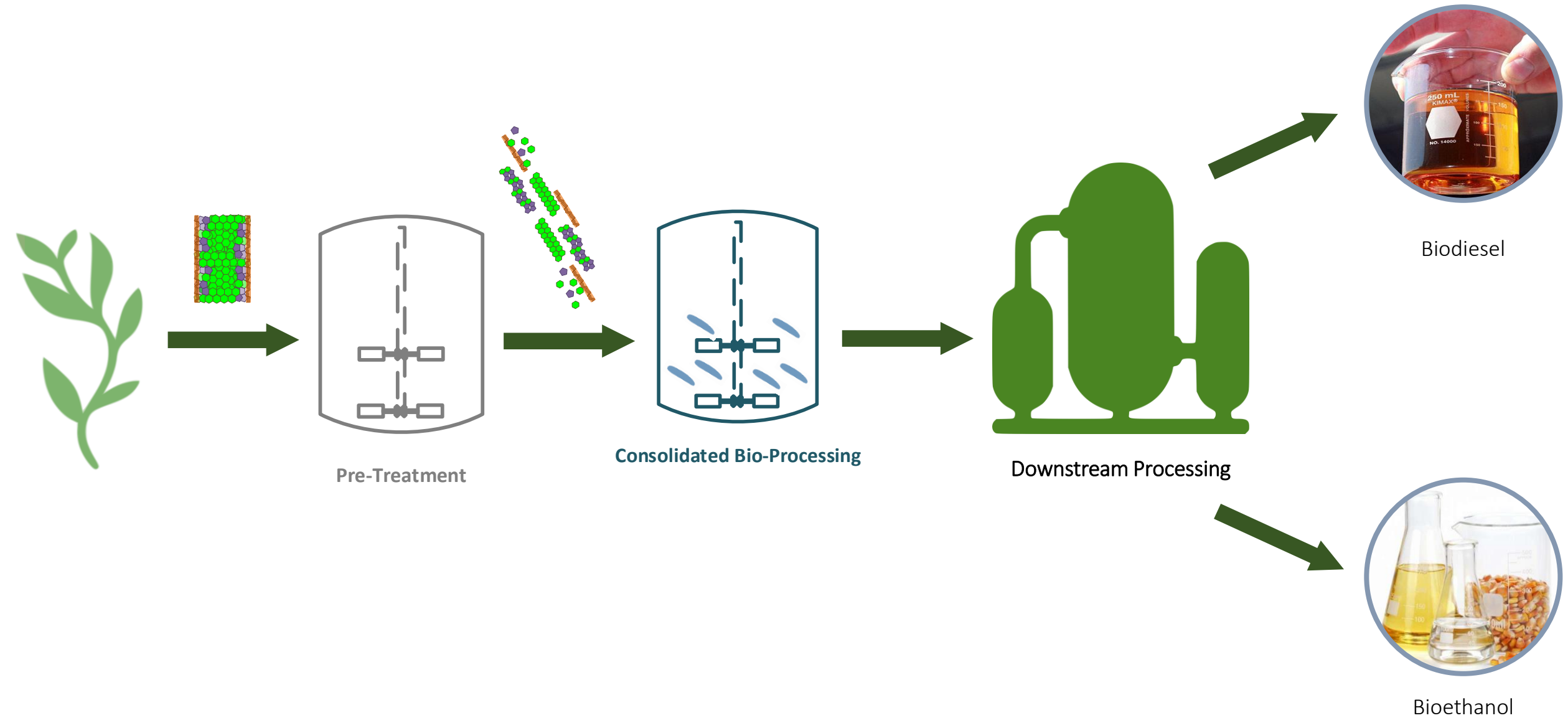


CHEMICAL ENGINEERING SCIENCES

National Research Council (1988). *Frontiers in Chemical Engineering: Research Needs and Opportunities*, National Academies Press.

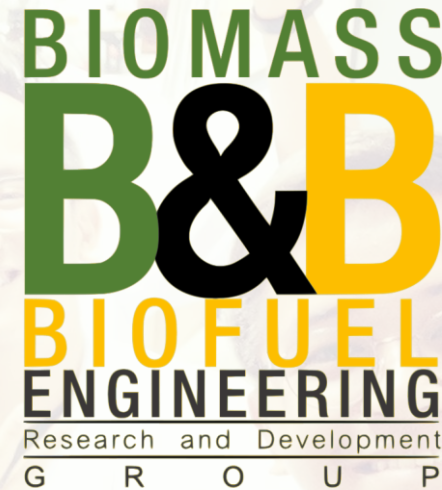
Looking at Biotechnology through the perspective of a Chemical Engineer

On addressing our country's need for biofuels



As a research group we see that we are...

- A community of researchers bridging knowledge gaps and developing technologies on biomass utilization and biofuel production.
- A relevant research group influencing national policies and laws facilitating the development of a profitable industry based on biomass utilization and biofuel production.



As a research group, we...

- Promote education and research towards an effective and efficient use of local biomass resources for a sustainable bio-based industry.
- Provide scientifically sound, innovative alternatives and solutions in biomass processing for the benefit of the local, national, and global communities.



**Thank you for
your attention!**

*Any comments
or questions?*

